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United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ukiah District Office
Arcata Resource Area

March 1991

DRAFT VISITOR SERVICES PLAN

KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

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United States Department of the Interior

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARCATA RESOURCE AREA
1125 16th Street, Rm 219
Arcata, California 95521-5580

IN REPLY REFER TO
8320

March 1991

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Enclosed herewith is the Draft King Range National Conservation Area Visitor Services Plan and Environmental Assessment. This document specifies the management actions the Bureau of Land Management proposes to implement in the King Range National Conservation Area (KRNCA) in order to provide services to visitors and to protect natural and cultural resource values from impacts associated with visitor use.

This plan was developed in order to improve BLM's delivery of visitor services and resource protection by building upon the existing general use zoning contained in the 1974 KRNCA Management Program. It also responds to changes in visitation, land ownership patterns and BLM's legal responsibilities which have occurred since the 1974 KRNCA Management Program was adopted.

The process used to develop this document is described in Appendix E. Following a 30-day public review period, the planning team will reconvene to analyze public comments and make necessary revisions to the plan and environmental assessment. The revised plan will then be submitted to the Ukiah District Manager for his approval.

I would appreciate your review and any comments or suggestions you may be ale to offer concerning this plan. To be considered, I will need to receive your comments in writing by April 30, 1991. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Joe Williams at (916) 246-5325.

Thank you for your concern and participation in this planning process.

Sincerely,

DE Averill

Acting
Daniel Averill
Area Manager

United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ukiah District
Arcata Resource Area

DRAFT

KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

VISITOR SERVICES PLAN

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King Range Visitor Services Plan

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KING RANGE VISITOR SERVICE PLAN

Part I. Introduction

A. Background

The King Range National Conservation Area (KRNCA) was created with the signing of a Declaration of Establishment by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Jack O. Horton on September 21, 1974. Prior to this, Congress enacted Public Law 91-476, the King Range Act, requiring among other things that a study be made of the area and a management program be developed which identified a boundary and zoned the area for primary and secondary uses.

The King Range National Conservation Area Management Program (September, 1974) has been the foundation document directing the Bureau of Land Management's actions in the KRNCA since that time, and in scope and objectives, is very similar to the BLM's Resource Management Plans required under Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

The Management Program makes general land use allocations for the area. Section 602 of the FLPMA extended the boundaries of the KRNCA to the north to their present position, encompassing the entire ocean front from the Sinkyone State Wilderness to the Mouth of the Mattole River. A description of the KRNCA and the legislative history of its establishment is contained in the KRNCA Management Program document of 1974.

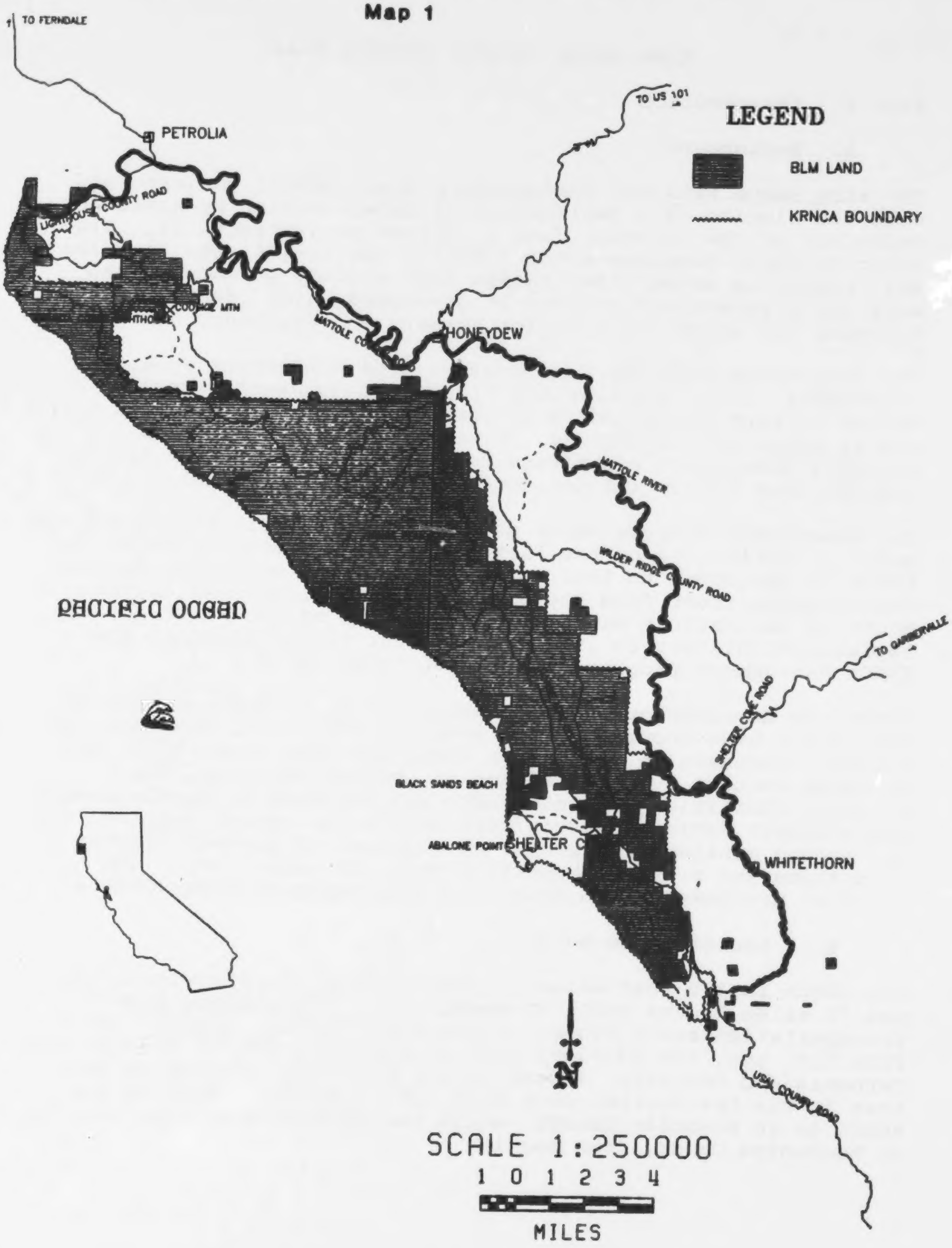
Since the development of the original plan, several changes in visitation have occurred which required additional analysis and action. Increase in visitation along the Lost Coast Trail has prompted concern over the effect to coastal wildlife, the existing facilities are inadequate and outdated to handle modern recreational vehicle and visitors demand for secure parking, on-the-ground management presence is required to protect fragile ecosystems and private property rights, to name a few. The original management plan never addressed many of these issues.

B. Location and Setting

The KRNCA is 230 road miles to the north of San Francisco, CA, and 70 miles to the south of Eureka, CA. The primary ground transportation route accessing the KRNCA is U.S. Highway 101. From U.S. 101, the northern part of the KRNCA can be reached via Ferndale and Petrolia. Access to the southerly portion of the area is via the Shelter Cove Road out of Redway. Most of the KRNCA is in Humboldt County, while the southernmost 2 percent is in Mendocino County (See map 1).

KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Map 1



The KRNCA encompasses 63,211 acres of which 55,576 (88%) are Public Land under BLM jurisdiction. The area includes approximately 35 miles of coastline and extends inland as much as six miles. The King Range rises abruptly from the coastal beach to elevations over 4,000 ft. within three miles. Streams on the west side drain directly into the Pacific Ocean, while east side streams drain into the Mattole River. The climate is mild, with annual averages of over 100 inches of rain (up to 200 inches in places) falling primarily during the winter months. Coastal fog is common during the summer months.

C. Purpose

The KRNCA Visitor Services Plan (VSP) is needed to determine what recreation management actions the BLM should take to implement the KRNCA Management Program of 1974 as amended by the FLPMA of 1976, and other land use plans including the King Range Transportation Plan of 1986.

The scope of the VSP will include the federal lands located within the KRNCA, the administrative site at Whitethorn, and visitor service contact areas directly adjacent to the KRNCA. The VSP will identify the visitor management objectives identifying the recreation activity and setting opportunities to be managed for, recreation experiences to be provided, interpretive themes, recreation facilities, administrative and staffing needs required to meet the management objectives. The plan will also address the visitor services actions (interpretation, emergency services, information and educational materials) required to enhance the recreation experience and manage visitor use consistent with the management objectives and sound ecological principles.

The VSP will identify the primary visitor services (i.e., group camping, interpretation, water, parking, trailhead) to be provided and the general location at which the services will be developed in the concept plan. The actual site design, however, for facility development will be developed separately in project plans. Operational and site specific plans, including maintenance plans, search and rescue plans, fire plans and interpretive plans will be developed separately.

D. Method of Plan Preparation

The VSP preparation relied primarily on existing information and the assistance of the volunteer King Range Planning Team. This information was evaluated to determine the current recreation management situation. From this evaluation, visitor management issues were defined, visitor management use zones formulated and zone specific management prescriptions developed. Based on the management prescriptions established for each zone a concept plan and list of actions were developed to resolve the visitor management issues.

A separate Environmental Assessment addresses the environmental impacts of plan implementation (Appendix G).

Part II. Guidelines for the Planning Effort

A. Planning Assumptions

The Visitor Services Plan was written based on five planning assumptions:

1. The KRNCA contains one Wilderness Study area (WSA) and one Instant Study Area (ISA) (See map 2 for the portions of the KRNCA affected). These areas are subject to the management constraints placed upon them by the Interim Management Policy (IMP) and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review and the regulation as prescribed in 43 CFR 3802. No management actions or decisions affecting these areas will be implemented within the KRNCA until the wilderness issues are resolved. Therefore, management actions and potential development, located within these areas will be discussed as "concept only" unless the actions could be implemented within the IMP guidelines. Upon resolution of the wilderness issues, (i.e., wilderness designation, additional planning will be completed to address those issues.

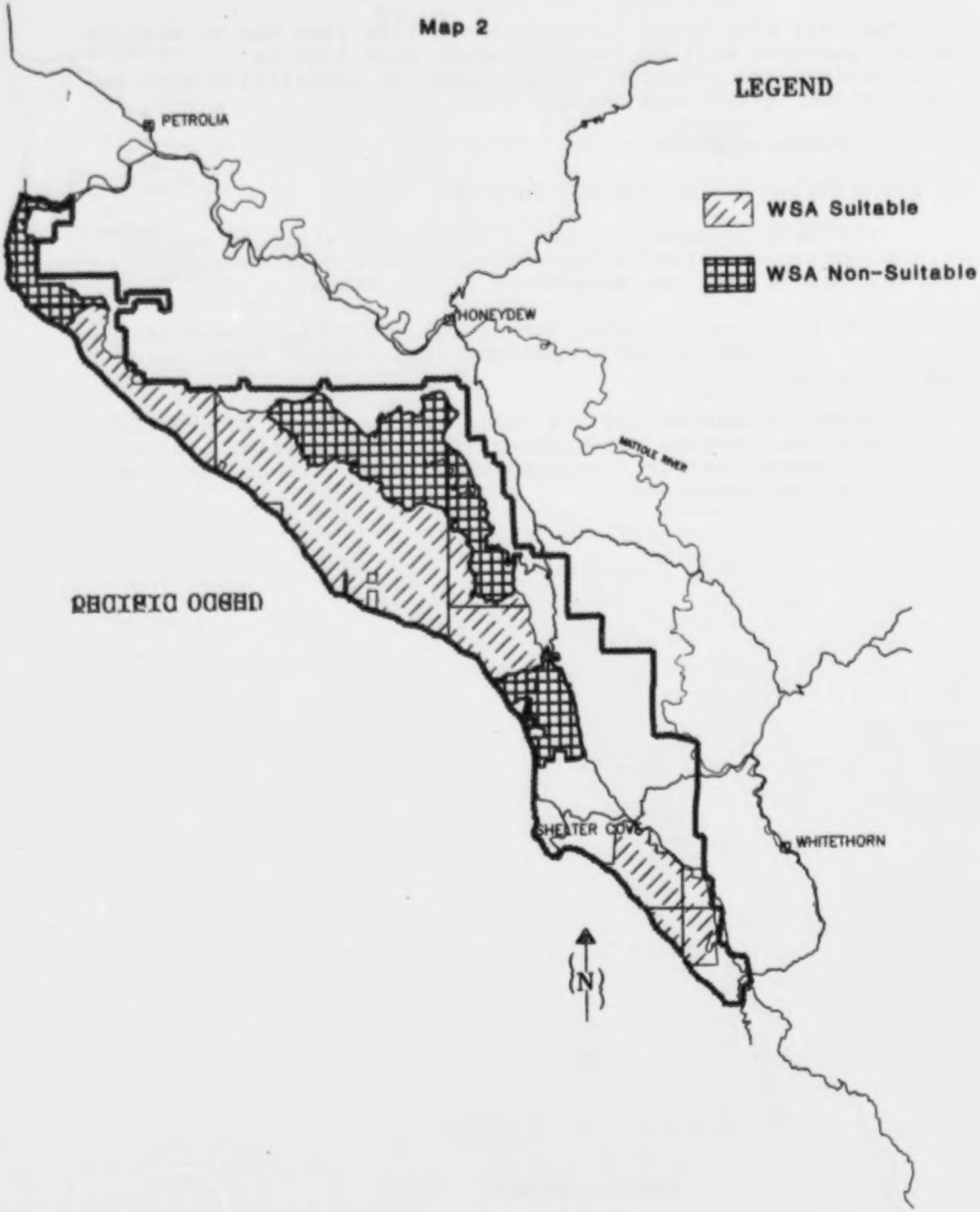
2. The VSP will only deal with those management actions required to manage the visitor use within the KRNCA. Other management actions dealing with other resource values (i.e., wildlife, timber, watershed management, etc.) will continue to be managed under the King Range Management Plan (1974) and other subsequent planning decisions.

3. The original King Range Management Program document outlined primary and secondary uses with recreation being dominant in 3 of the 7 zones. The VSP expands on the concept identifying specific experience opportunities and activities to be provided within each visitor management zone.

4. The BLM has officially filed its recommendations for wilderness designation in the KRNCA. The issues surrounding wilderness designation will not, therefore, be addressed within this plan.

KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

Map 2



5. The 1986 King Range Transportation Plan (See Map 3) vehicle use designations will be retained until such time as modifications are required to implement new legislation such as Congressional wilderness designations.

B. Planning Goals

The planning goals for the VSP include:

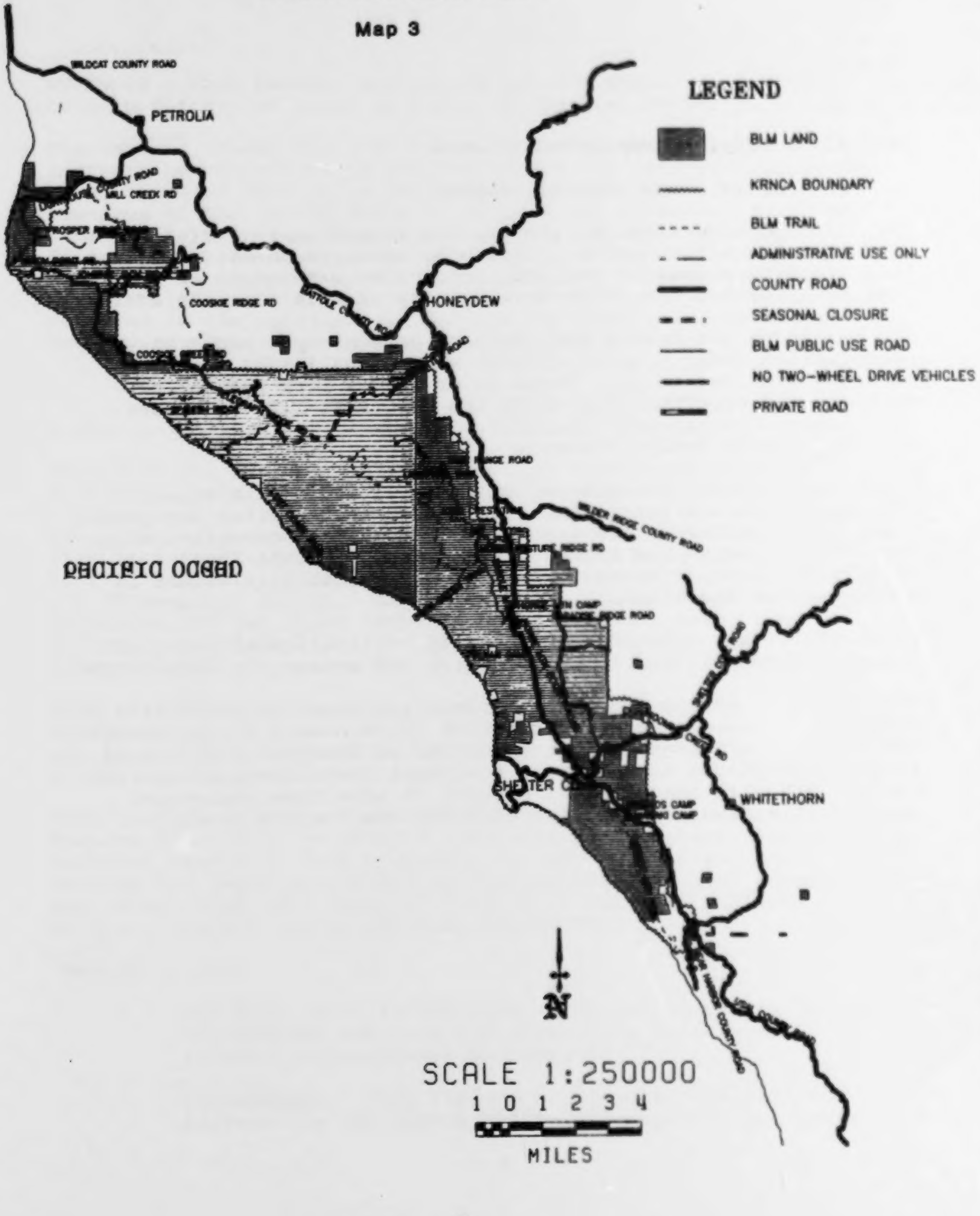
1. Provide a framework by which interested visitors and neighboring area residents can actively contribute toward and become involved with the management of the KRNCA.

2. Insure that all planned BLM management actions have the benefit of full public participation, from initial formulation to implementation.

3. Provide facilities and visitor services, i.e., information, interpretation, camping, picnicking, equestrian/hiking trails, etc., to enhance visitor's enjoyment while protecting the King Range's natural resources.

KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Map 3



Part III. Visitor Management Issues

A. Major Issue Identification

The planning team used the constraints listed in Part II-A above to filter the 179 individual issues or concerns identified for this planning process. Only 25 concerns were found to be completely beyond the scope or authority of this planning effort.

The remaining 154 issues and concerns were grouped and consolidated under 4 major visitor management issues and 24 separate considerations. These major issues form the set of problems and opportunities which the VSP (Part III) addresses.

B. Local Public Concerns

There were several management concerns expressed at the public meetings which are not normally addressed in a visitor management plan, but nonetheless are important to the local communities who have close ties to the KRNCA. These issues include local employment, revenue management and local public involvement in management of the KRNCA.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT - How can the locally available work force and volunteers be utilized to help develop and manage the King Range?

Discussion: Strong interest has been expressed by local area citizens in becoming part of the work force needed to implement the VSP. Interests ranged from working as docents or volunteer interpreter-guides to laborers, equipment operators and security staff. BLM will make special efforts to advertise employment opportunities and availability of contracts for bid locally.

REVENUES - What revenue generating actions should be pursued to help defray the costs of managing the King Range?

Discussion: Fees collected by the BLM for certain types of uses can be re-applied in the area where the fees were collected. Other types of fees go to other agencies or become general revenues of the United States. Concern was expressed that fees generated within the King Range be used for its management. Federal laws and agency guidelines dictate how recreation user fees will be deposited. There are however, methods of retaining fees for interpretive materials and services provided that can be retained in the local area. The use of Cooperative Associations has proved successful and will be explored.

C. MAJOR ISSUES

Issue 1. Visitor Experiences and Resource Protection

The KRNCA was divided into five visitor management zones. Achieving the management objectives and protection of the recreational values and resource values identified in the King Range Act often create conflict. The popularity of the KRNCA has also increased since visitor statistics have been kept. The visitor use patterns and types of recreation activities pursued are in constant change. As with other fragile ecosystems, excessive use can cause campsite deterioration, ecosystem destruction, disruption of wildlife, and reduction in visitor expectations.

This visitor use also creates conflicts with existing land use management programs. If left uncontrolled, the increased visitor use to the King Range will ultimately destroy the values most sought by the users.

What visitor services shall be provided within the KRNCA to enhance prescribed recreation opportunities, protect natural and cultural resources from excessive or improper visitor use, provide for improved visitor safety and protection of property, and reduce conflicts between visitors as well as conflicts between visitors and neighboring residents?

Considerations:

a. OFF-ROAD VEHICLE CONFLICTS - How can conflicts between off-highway vehicles and other King Range users (hikers, equestrians) be reduced?

Discussion: This visitor management plan will not address the off-highway vehicle designations. These designations will be addressed in the normal update of the King Range Plan. There is concern, however, with the conflict between OHVs and hikers, predominately in the vicinity of Black Sands Beach. Local users and fishermen have had historical OHV use of these areas. The VSP will, however, address methods of reducing conflicts and prevention of vehicle use in closed areas, particularly on the beach between Gitchell Creek and Big Flat. Also, how can user conflicts be reduced in areas where off-highway vehicles and hikers or equestrians share a common corridor of travel?

b. SANITATION - What sanitation facilities are needed and where should they be located?

Discussion: Because visitor movement throughout the King Range is limited by terrain to narrow corridors, human impacts, including human wastes, tend to be concentrated at or near points of interest, resulting in unsanitary conditions. The public has identified a need to provide adequate sanitation to reduce environmental damage and risks to human health.

c. VISITOR USE CAPACITIES - What user capacities should be established for facilities and areas to maintain a quality visitor experience and compatibility with the ecological conditions.

Discussion: Many concerns were related to problems associated with negative environmental impacts of overuse and loss of primitive values or recreation experience opportunities due to excessive numbers of visitors or the lack of controls on certain types of use.

d. INHOLDERS/TRESPASS - How can trespass by visitors on private property, and resultant conflicts, be controlled? What inholder problems are there and how can they be addressed?

Discussion: Trespass or unpermitted use of private property within or adjoining the King Range NCA has created problems for many neighboring residents and landowners, particularly in the Shelter Cove and on the Smith-Etter properties. Usually such trespass is not deliberate, but rather the result of inadequate signing or mis-informed visitors. A number of problems specific to inholders (private properties surrounded by public lands within the KRNCA) were identified, including such things as public use of private cabins along the beach, aircraft use of the Big Flat airstrip, road access to inholdings and fire protection.

e. FIRE - What measures (beyond normal Ca. Dept. of Forestry requirements) are needed to protect visitors, the King Range, and surrounding areas from the effects of wildfire?

Discussion: A great deal of concern was expressed about the danger of wildfire, which many neighboring residents felt might be increased due to the constraints of the anticipated wilderness designation. Control of bonfires along the beach, maintenance of fuel and firebreaks, fire access roads and restrictions on campfires were matters of broad concern.

f. COMMERCIAL USES - What types and levels of commercial uses should be allowed under BLM permit?

Discussion: Commercial uses which are dependent upon use of the KRNCA public lands include, but are not limited to, such activities as car and boat shuttle services, hunting guides, pack train operations, horse rentals, off-highway vehicle rentals and motion picture or commercial photography.

g. INFORMATION & EDUCATION - What measures are needed to provide visitors with more effective orientation concerning the KRNCA's resources, opportunities, limitations and regulations?

Discussion: While signing can provide some essential information, other media are more appropriate for lengthy or complicated informational and educational efforts. Such media might include brochures, books, video-tapes, dioramas, displays, guided tours or personal contacts with area staff and volunteers.

h. MOTORIZED ACCESS - Should motorized vehicle access be re-evaluated?

Discussion: The most frequently raised concerns were focused on motor vehicle access and use within the King Range coastal areas. While the King Range Transportation Plan specifies which roads, trails and areas are available for general public motor vehicle use, along with seasonal restrictions on use, the planning team felt that it would be useful to explore ways to clarify or even modify the Transportation Plan if necessary to implement management actions developed through the Visitor Services Plan. Also, Congressional wilderness designation could require modifications to the existing Transportation Plan.

i. HABITAT - What measures should be implemented to protect wildlife and flora habitats?

Discussion: The KRNCA contains a variety of sensitive wildlife habitats including coastal influence zones, Roosevelt elk habitat, riparian areas and estuaries. The Lost Coast is home for a variety of marine animals, including sea lions and pelagic birds which are influenced by visitors. The plan will explore ways of reducing these conflicts.

j. HISTORICAL/CULTURAL - How can the area's historic and prehistoric resources be interpreted for and protected from the visiting public?

Discussion: The King Range contains a wealth of prehistoric cultural sites and has a rich history, much of which has not as yet been adequately recorded or protected from both looting and unintentional damage from human activities. Known sites need protection from harm and unrecorded sites need to be identified. Also, the area has a very interesting history and prehistory which could, if made available, enhance visitors' understanding and appreciation for the King Range.

k. PRIMITIVE VALUES - What actions are needed to preserve the primitive character of the King Range?

Discussion: The King Range offers unique opportunities for primitive outdoor experiences. Designation of some part of the area as Wilderness via Congressional action is anticipated. Until Congress acts, protection of potential wilderness from impairment is needed. Additionally, preserving the primitive character of parts of the King Range which may not be included within the Congressionally defined wilderness has been identified as a major concern by both visitors and neighboring residents.

2. Visitor Health and Safety

By its very nature the KRNCA has historically promoted concerns for visitor health and safety. The visitor safety problems associated with remoteness, unsafe potable water, search and rescue, and security of vehicles has long been recognized. Clarification of interagency roles and responsibilities has created a need to adequately pre-plan and prepare for emergency situations and assure the visitor a reasonably safe recreation experience.

a. SECURITY - How should security be provided for King Range visitors' persons and property?

Discussion: According to some of the local residents living near major access points, visitors often request storage for personal vehicles while making multi-day visits. Additionally, because of the lack of on-site agency personnel, some visitors have been threatened by other's abusive behavior and have had nowhere to turn to resolve such problems.

b. POTABLE WATER - Where and how should potable water be provided?

Discussion: Safe drinking water sources have become a matter of concern in most wildland areas due to the spread of both chemical and biological contaminants.

c. EMERGENCY SERVICES - What additional public safety and emergency services should be provided by BLM?

Discussion: King Range visitors have been dependent upon locally provided emergency services, which has placed a heavy burden on local emergency services providers. Additionally, neighboring residents are often approached by visitors to assist with problems which many residents feel should be handled by BLM.

d. INTERAGENCY COORDINATION - What agreements, contracts or other instruments are needed to effectively coordinate multi-agency roles, responsibilities and activities?

Discussion: Due to the proprietary nature of BLM's jurisdiction, many other local, State and Federal agencies have some form of jurisdiction or responsibility for resources or events within the King Range. Coordination of all concerned agency actions within the King Range could be assured if formal cooperating relationships are established.

Issue 3. Facility Development, Use Supervision, Administration, and Area Monitoring

a. NEW DEVELOPMENTS - What new facilities are needed and where should they be located?

Discussion: Many concerns were expressed over the lack or inadequacy of facilities needed to accommodate both traditional King Range users, such as equestrians, and relatively new users, such as mountain bicyclists. There was also concern over the problems associated with incompatible uses occurring on the same facilities and location of the facilities in ecologically sensitive areas.

b. SIGNS - What portal, guide, interpretive and regulatory signs are needed and where should they be located?

Discussion: The lack of effective signing limits the ability of the area's visitors to orient themselves, understand the resources and management activities, comply with use restrictions, fully enjoy use opportunities, and avoid hazards or keep from creating problems for themselves, other visitors, and neighboring area residents and land users.

c. MAINTENANCE - To what levels should roads, trails, campgrounds and other facilities be maintained?

Discussion: A major management cost is the continuing maintenance of improvements. The level of maintenance prescribed for the area's roads, trails and other facilities will determine a large part of the area's annual operating budget requirement.

d. TRAILS - What types of trails are needed in the King Range?

Discussion: Competition for use of trails between different types of trail users (horse, bicycle, pedestrian) has resulted in conflict between different types of users as well as loss of recreational experience opportunities. Since there are only a finite number of trail location possibilities, it will be necessary to determine which types of trails are needed, specify trail use, and restrict incompatible uses.

e. EQUESTRIAN USES/FACILITIES - What equestrian services and facilities are needed and where should they be located?

Discussion: While the area has great potential for equestrian use, many of the specialized needs of equestrian users are lacking and conflicts with non-equestrian users has resulted.

f. TURNOUTS - Should turnouts which are useable for picnicking, scenic vistas, car camping, etc., be provided?

Discussion: A need was identified for undeveloped sites which would be accessible by motor vehicle and could be used by visitors who did not wish to utilize the developed facilities, but rather preferred the unstructured, self-sufficient, vehicle based recreation opportunity.

Part IV. The Management Program

A. Visitor Services Management Theme

The KRNCA will be managed to protect and enhance its natural values while providing opportunities for visitors to experience their unique values. Recreation experience opportunities available to the visitor will cover a broad spectrum, ranging from the unconfined wilderness settings where visitors must be self-reliant and leave no lasting imprint upon the land, to developed settings and facilities where the visitor's comfort, health, safety and informational needs or educational interests are provided for in deliberately modified or improved settings. The KRNCA will be managed to preserve and protect wilderness values within the WSA, and to insure that these values are not impaired by either direct BLM management activity, or the actions of others.

The visitor management philosophy will rely primarily on off-site management actions. The use of interpretive and educational materials will be the primary management tools. Design of structures and recreation facilities will consider the existing ecological values, local design themes and be largely rustic in nature. The development of recreation facilities will be the minimum required to manage the visitors in concert with the ecological capacities of the fragile ecosystems.

B. Zone Specific Management Objectives and Design Parameters

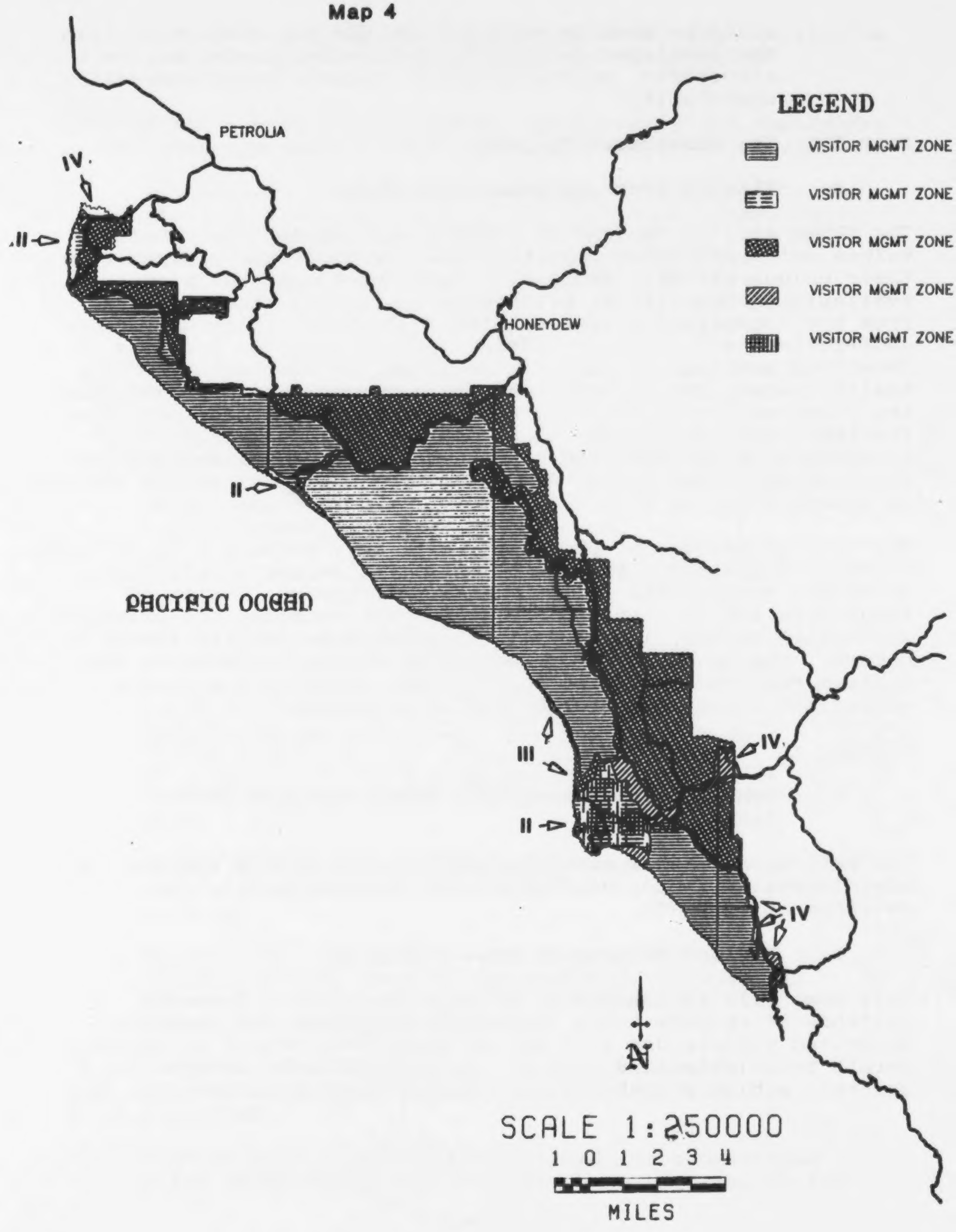
The following visitor management objectives will guide the administration of the visitation and recreation facility development in KRNCA.

1. Visitor Management Zone 1 (Map 4)

This zone will be managed to be essentially free from the evidence of on-site human induced restrictions and controls. Motorized vehicle use will not be permitted, except by special permit to private land owners. The zone will be managed to maintain a high probability of experiencing isolation from the

VISITOR MANAGEMENT ZONES

Map 4



sights and sounds of others, with not more than 6-8 group encounters per day between users, independence, closeness to nature, self reliance through the application of backcountry skills, and an environment that offers a high degree of risk and challenge.

Backcountry use levels and the management of renewable resources will be dependent on maintaining natural ecosystems which will allow for natural ecological changes. On site visitor management activities will be designed in harmony with the existing ecological site conditions and will be developed under the concept of "minimum tool."

Primary recreation activities managed for within this zone include hiking, coastal wildlife viewing, hunting, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, nature study, fishing and surfing. Frequency of managerial contact will be low, with off-site controls the primary management tools.

This area encompasses 35,340 acres of the KRNCA.

2. Visitor Management Zone 2.

This zone will be managed to be largely free from the evidence of on site human induced restrictions and controls. Motorized vehicle use will not be permitted, except by special permit to private land owners. Limited facilities for the administration of visitor use will be allowed, but off-site administration is encouraged.

The zone will be managed to maintain a good probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of others, with minimum contact between users, independence, closeness to nature, application of backcountry skills, and an environment that offers a degree of risk and challenge. Backcountry use levels and the management of renewable resources will be dependent on maintaining natural appearing ecosystems.

On site visitor management activities and project design include rustic design parameters and will stress protection of natural values, in harmony with the existing site conditions.

Primary recreation activities managed for within this zone include hiking, viewing coastal wildlife, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, nature study, and fishing. Frequency of managerial contact will be low, with off-site controls encouraged.

This zone encompasses 865 acres of the KRNCA.

3. Visitor Management Zone 3.

This zone will be managed to be predominantly natural or natural appearing environments. Evidence of humans, restrictions and controls are present, but subtle. Motorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails as specified in the transportation plan. Facilities for the administration of visitor use will be allowed. On-site interpretive facilities, dirt and gravel roads and trails, signing, equestrian, camping facilities and staging areas will be designed to harmonize with the existing natural environment and be the minimum required to achieve the objectives.

Within this zone the concentration of users is low, but there is often evidence of others. Freedom of recreational choice will be maintained with independence and closeness to nature, important. On-site visitor management activities and project design include rustic design parameters and will stress protection of natural values, in harmony with the existing site conditions.

Primary recreation activities managed for within this zone include hiking, viewing coastal wildlife, backcountry vehicle touring, hunting, backpacking, car and RV camping, horseback riding, nature study, mountain biking and fishing.

Frequency of managerial contact will be moderate within developed facilities, trails and roads.

This zone encompasses 22,187 acres of the KRNCA.

4. Visitor Management Zone 4.

This zone will be managed to be a natural appearing environment. Evidence of humans, restrictions and controls are present. Motorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails as specified in the transportation plan. Facilities for the administration of visitor use will be allowed. On-site interpretive facilities, gravel and paved roads and trails, signing, equestrian, camping facilities and staging areas will be designed with a rustic design theme.

Within this zone the concentration of users is moderate, and there is often evidence of others. Freedom of recreational choice will be maintained with independence and closeness to nature, important. Primary recreation activities managed for within this zone include hiking, viewing coastal wildlife, vehicle touring, backpacking, car and RV camping, horseback riding, nature study, and fishing.

Frequency of managerial contact will be high within developed facilities, and moderate on trails and roads.

This zone encompasses 2,249 acres of the KRNCA.

5. Visitor Management Zone 5.

This management zone is predominately private lands in Shelter Cove. BLM will limit its presence to visitor services only. The management of the existing environment will be controlled by local government and BLM facilities will be designed within those restrictions. Primary visitor services including camping, eating, etc. will be provided by the private sector. As with other Visitor Management Zones, the primary design parameters will be rustic.

Evidence of humans, restrictions and controls are present. Facilities for the administration of visitor use are the primary objective. On-site interpretive facilities and visitor contact facilities are stressed.

Within this zone the concentration of users is moderate to high, and there is often evidence of others. Primary recreation activities managed for within this zone include walking for pleasure, viewing coastal wildlife, on-site interpretation, vehicle touring, nature study, and fishing.

Frequency of managerial contact will be high within developed facilities, and moderate on interpretive trails.

This zone encompasses 2,553 acres of the KRNCA.

C. Management Actions

The management program for the KRNCA is defined by a series of actions which will be implemented to accomplish the management objectives listed in PART II, and to resolve the issues identified in PART III.

The management actions are addressed by visitor management action categories and by zone. Each major issue and the management actions selected to address that issue are listed and identified below. Alternative management actions which were considered but not selected are listed in Appendix H.

1. Land Acquisition

Action 1.1 Acquire in fee title or by purchase of easements for private lands from willing sellers where persistent visitor trespass occurs. (Zone 1, 2, 4, 5)

Action 1.2 Continue to offer to acquire all inholdings within the WSA and ISA. (Zone 1, 2)

Discussion Use of adjoining private property by visitors is a serious source of conflict and is aggravated by the fact that many visitors assume the entire KRNCA is in public ownership. When confronted by private landowners, they may react inappropriately because they suspect their rights are being violated. The combination of information and physical boundary delineation will help reduce this source of conflict.

2. Information and Interpretive Services

a. Communications

Action 2.1 Prepare a comprehensive communications, interpretation and signing plan. For each primary visitor facility located on the concept plan, the principal interpretive themes are identified in Appendix 3. The specific techniques or methods of communications (i.e., signing, kiosks, brochures, videos, visitor services personnel, contact station, etc.) will be coordinated within this plan. (See Actions 2.2 - 2.15 for additional direction.)
(Zone : Total Area)

The primary **communications themes** will include:

a. Location of secure parking areas
b. Off-High Vehicle designations, rules of conduct, environmentally sound and wise use of OHV's, vehicle use area limits
c. Low impact camping, primitive camping techniques, human waste cycle
d. Wildfire hazards and fire management
e. Location of under-utilized areas
f. Emergency services information
g. King Range directional information (trails, roads, hiking routes, points of interest)
h. Availability of commercial services
i. Road conditions, hazards, potable water
j. Entrance or portal signing
k. Hazards
l. Location of public lands
m. Equestrian ethics
n. Provide tidal information at trailheads and beach access points.

The primary Interpretive themes include:

a. Coastal wildlife (tide pools, whales, beach ecology)
b. Geologic features (San Andres Fault)
d. Anadramous fisheries ecosystems
e. Historical and cultural features
f. Terrestrial fauna and flora

g. Punta Gorda Lighthouse
h. Multiple-use management
i. Historic land uses
j. The Area of Critical Environmental Concern
k. Plant and animal adaptation
l. Weather processes
m. Rookery sensitivity, rare and endangered species
n. Recreation opportunities
o. Pedestrian/equestrian/vehicle user ethics and cooperation.

Action 2.2 Develop visitor information/contact stations near the towns of Honeydew and Petrolia. (Outside KRNCA.)

Action 2.3 Utilize informational materials (maps/brochures) and other interpretive devices to direct visitor use (by area, facility or type of use). (Zone: Total Area)

Action 2.4 Develop guided interpretive walks and an outdoor classroom curriculum based on resource enhancement actions and other appropriate topics in the Nooning Creek portion of the KRNCA. (Zone 4.)

Action 2.5 Develop an interpretive program concerning elk reintroduction for the Chemise Mountain Trail. (Zone 1.)

Action 2.6 Establish a junior ranger program at the visitor center for local and visiting preteens. (Zone: Total Area)

Action 2.7 Provide naturalist-led interpretive programs (hikes, campfire talks, demonstrations, etc.) at developed Chemise Mt. Recreation Area and the visitor contact station (Mal Coombs), and other popular areas of interest to interpret important natural and cultural features. (Zone: Total Area)

Action 2.8 Interpret forest management and lifting studies by developing a road tour (for mountain bike, 4WD, and equestrian users) along the Finley Ridge Road. (Zone 3.)

Action 2.9 Design forms that encourage visitors to report wildlife observations, trail conditions, incidents and other comments. (Zone: Total Area)

Action 2.10 Develop road tour cassette tapes to interpret various natural, cultural and management features of the KRNCA. (Zone 3, 4.)

Action 2.11 Clearly and accurately show private lands on BLM maps and discuss private property rights in brochures and other informational media. (Zone: Total Area)

Action 2.12 Indicate on maps and post locations on the ground where turnouts have been provided for camping, picnicking or other uses. (Zone 3.)

Action 2.13 Indicate availability of and means for contacting emergency services providers at contact stations, the visitor center and in maps/brochures. (Zone: Total Area)

Action 2.14 Provide both living interpretation and static interpretive signs and displays to interpret the area's pre-history and history. Enlist the help of the area's "old timers" in recording the verbal history of the KRNCA. (Zone 5.)

Action 2.15 Through displays, brochures/maps, personal contacts and signing inform the visiting public concerning the locations and boundaries of the WSA and ISA and what activities and practices are allowed or prohibited. (Zone: 1, 2.)

Discussion: Interpretation is the link between visitors and the natural, cultural and backcountry values they encounter within the KRNCA. Considering the number of people that will annually visit this area, interpretation will be an effective means by which BLM can convey information. Interpretation will go a long way toward changing attitudes and providing the visitor with insight of their actions on the environment.

By providing a range of both active and passive opportunities for visitors to better understand the natural and cultural features of the KRNCA along with the management programs for protecting those features while enhancing recreation experiences, many of the problems which affect the resources, neighboring landowners, the managing agency and the visitors themselves can be reduced or eliminated. The potential for visitors unintentionally harming the resources and other peoples' property, rights or enjoyment of the KRNCA can be significantly reduced.

Action 2.16 Accept donations for otherwise free maps, brochures and interpretive programs to help defray KRNCA operating costs.

Action 2.17 Charge a fee for maps or other printed materials and for interpretive programs offered at the visitor center or at field locations. (Zone: Total Area)

Action 2.18 Charge fees for maps/brochures and offer a full or partial refund for their return in useable condition.

Discussion Each of the above listed actions would generate revenues which would be returned to the KRNCA rather than going directly into the United States general revenues or to another agency. These monies could be invested in improving facilities and visitor services within the KRNCA.

b. Signs

Action 2.19 Install portal signs at all KRNCA entry points, including but not limited to the Mouth of the Mattole, Smith Etter Road, and Nooning Ground Overlook. (Zone 3, 4.)

Action 2.20 Develop and install interpretive signs for Mattole Beach ocean viewing, Punta Gorda Lighthouse, Shelter Cove tidal pools, Nooning Ground Overlook, shellmounds, near the Honeydew Creek drainage to interpret wildlife habitat, and other area features of cultural or natural interest. (Zone: 2,3,4,5.)

Action 2.21 Install regulatory signs wherever restrictions on visitor activities are imposed, such as at trailheads for trails closed to motor vehicles or developed recreation sites where shooting is prohibited. (Zone: Total Area)

Action 2.22 Install directional signs and confidence signs along KRNCA roads and trails. (Zone: 3, 4.)

Action 2.23 Allow neighboring landowners to assist in boundary delineation and posting using BLM surveys and signs. (Zone: Total Area.)

Action 2.24 Post roads at points where horse crossings or other equestrian uses occur. (Zone: 3,4.)

Discussion A comprehensive sign installation and maintenance program will provide visitors with much of the information they need to have safe and enjoyable visits to the King Range, even when contact with managing agency staff is either not possible or not desired.

3. Visitor and Resource Protection

Action 3.1 Implement a visitor awareness program of low impact use of the KRNCA. This program will utilize volunteers, visitor services and law enforcement personnel, interpretive talks, brochures and other educational materials (see action 2.1) and will stress minimum impact camping techniques, pack-it-in pack out procedures, human waste disposal procedures, minimum impact hiking techniques, impacts of visitation on coastal zones. (Zone: Total Area)

Action 3.2 Monitor visitor use and unattended vehicles and property with Visitor Services staff in coordination with volunteer hosts and law enforcement Rangers. (Zone: Total Area)

Action 3.3 Establish BLM and/or volunteer cooperator horseback patrols for wilderness and other areas closed to vehicle use. (Zone 1, 2.)

Action 3.4 Require that visitors pack out any trash or garbage that they generate during their visit to backcountry areas of the KRNCA. (Zone 1, 2.)

Action 3.5 Provide portable chemical toilets where needed during exceptionally heavy use periods and in areas that are likely to flood during winter (Mattole River area). (Zone: Total Area)

Action 3.6 Establish visitor use capacities based upon the Zone Specific Management Objectives with priority on the Coastal areas. (Total area)

Action 3.7 Require visitors to obtain permits for using areas of the KRNCA which are receiving more than 95 percent of maximum allowable use as prescribed under Action 3.6. Phase in permit requirement, making permits voluntary initially, and mandatory after a reasonable period, allowing the general public time to become aware of the permit requirement. (Zone: 1, 2.)

Action 3.8 Provide visitor registration logs at trailheads, visitor center, and developed campgrounds, etc. for voluntary visitor monitoring assistance. (Zone: Total Area)

Action 3.9 Conduct a comprehensive inventory of important marine and terrestrial habitats for flora and fauna, develop and prescribe the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) and institute a monitoring program to measure the effects of activity upon these habitats. (Zone 1, 2.)

Action 3.10 Enlist inholders to assist with data gathering on visitor use and resource conditions for monitoring LAC.

Discussion Information concerning the importance of habitat areas for flora and/or fauna is incomplete, however it was felt that should there be a future need to protect such habitat areas, a mechanism to do so should already be in place, and that the area should be inventoried to discover where such habitat areas might be.

Action 3.11 Route, reroute or close trails and roads to avoid impacting sensitive habitats. (Zone: 1, 2.)

Action 3.12 Erect physical restraints (i.e. fences, barricades) where necessary to protect sensitive habitats from visitor impacts. (Zone: Total Area)

Action 3.13 Cooperate with neighboring and inholding landowners to identify public land boundaries and post them so visitors do not inadvertently enter private property.

Action 3.14 Have BLM law enforcement, visitor services, maintenance and fire suppression staff advise the visiting public that there are private inholding and adjoining properties which should be avoided.

Action 3.15 Unless otherwise designated, use of turnouts will be limited to day-use only.

Action 3.16 Require that camping use of turnouts be entirely self-contained.

Action 3.17 Protect cultural resource sites to the full extent of the law by signing, fencing, frequent patrol, and if necessary, excavation and reburial.

Action 3.18 Protect primitive recreation opportunities around Big Flat through agreement with private property owners to limit uses which could impact surrounding public land (Zone 1).

4. Visitor Services

a. Emergency Services

Action 4.1 Work closely with local emergency services providers to accommodate increased emergency assistance demands resulting from increased visitation to the public lands within the KRNCA.

Action 4.2 Train volunteer hosts and other appropriate volunteers in basic first-aid, CPR, and insure that they are knowledgeable concerning the availability of emergency services.

Action 4.3 Train and qualify all KRNCA BLM personnel in CPR, First-Aid and surf rescue.

Discussion The existing local emergency services providers are sometimes overtaxed due to visitor-related problems in the KRNCA. By strengthening these organizations and increasing the BLM role in providing emergency services, response times and response effectiveness can be substantially enhanced.

b. Law Enforcement

Action 4.4 Provide regular law enforcement Ranger patrols throughout the KRNCA.

5. Special Area Permits and Commercial Use Administration

Action 5.1 Implement a visitor permit system when visitor use capacities are exceeded based on the monitoring studies and visitor counts or when LAC objectives are exceeded.

Action 5.2 Require Special Recreation Permits (SRP) for group use of trails and facilities, and require SRP's for events where necessary to protect the natural and cultural resources or reduce conflicts and hazards.

Discussion Establishing maximum visitor occupancy levels for areas as well as facilities provides one of the most basic ways of insuring that the social environment (type and amount of contact between visitors) does not detract from the quality of visitor experience opportunities or put excessive use pressure on facilities and natural resources.

Action 5.3 Allow commercial service providers operating under BLM permit to provide suitable advertising brochures or other media for display/distribution at the visitor center and contact stations.

Action 5.4 Post the requirement for Special Recreation Permits for commercial services such as hunting guides, pack outfitters, vehicle shuttles, stock or equipment rentals, etc., within the KRNCA.

Action 5.5 Limit commercial use volume to not more than 25 percent of the total visitor use allowed in a zone under Action 5.1 if total use reaches prescribed zonal maximum use levels.

Discussion There is a potential for commercial service business ventures to exploit visitor needs or demands within the KRNCA. Such businesses can sometimes be accommodated through control under the BLM SRP system and enhance recreation use opportunities, however managerial discretion must be carefully exercised to insure that commercial uses do not detract from the KRNCA's natural and cultural values and prescribed experience opportunity settings.

6. Facility Development (See Appendix B, Concept Plan for Visitor Services to be provided at each development.)

a. Visitor Contact Stations

Action 6.1 Develop a manned visitor contact station at a suitable location at Mal Coombs park.

Action 6.2 Develop a relief model of the KRNCA at the visitor contact station depicting facilities, trails, roads and boundaries with private lands.

Action 6.3 Develop contact stations at all major entry points to the KRNCA, including Mouth of Mattole, Wilder Ridge/Smith Etter Road, Wilder Ridge/Horse Mt., Shelter Cove/Horse Mt. and Black Sands Beach.

Action 6.4 Develop a King Range Visitor Center at a suitable location along the Shelter Cove Road.

b. Administrative Site Development

Action 6.5 Provide housing for the King Range administrative staff at Kaluna Cliff (Palmquist) cabin.

Action 6.6 Provide a barracks at the administrative site for seasonal maintenance, visitor services and fire suppression employees at Whitethorn. (See Appendix B, Concept Plan.)

c. Campgrounds and Staging Areas

Action 6.7 Redevelop a section of the terrace road north of Telegraph Creek to provide a replacement for the existing but rapidly eroding parking lot (concept only).

Action 6.8 Develop a Mouth of Mattole Recreation Site including overnight camping, secure parking, equestrian facilities and potable water in the vicinity of the Mouth of Mattole. Site to be determined in project plan.

Discussion: The existing Mattole staging area is located within a flood plain and in sensitive estrual zone. Location of overnight developed facilities within this area causes impacts to sensitive resources and places them in jeopardy of flooding and tidal damage.

Action 6.9 Develop the Mouth of Mattole day use area and picnic area south along the cliff to help direct visitor interest toward the beach and away from the Mattole Estuary.

Discussion: Development of a day use area will be limited to parking and picnic tables because of flood potential.

Action 6.10 Expand the Tolkan Campground to accommodate equestrian use and develop an equestrian trailhead.

Action 6.11 Develop springs for water sources where feasible at appropriate intervals near the trails.

Action 6.12 In trail, road or other facility design, insure that the design does not inadvertently create trespass problems for private land owners.

Discussion: While potable water development was identified as a major issue due to the shortage of safe drinking water sources, development of potable water sources requires careful site investigation, environmental assessment, construction (even if minimal) and periodic testing. Development of potable water is in many cases a part of a new development action identified above.

Action 6.13 Develop a campground (Laurel Glen) on the Shinn property site near Honeydew Creek. (concept only)

Discussion: Based upon the wilderness designation decisions, additional staging areas may be required for the east central side of the KRNCA. This area could provide this opportunity should the need arise.

Action 6.14 Construct low-profile, inconspicuous weather shelters at the following popular primitive camping areas along the beach: Punta Gorda Lighthouse, Sea Lion Gulch, Randall Creek, Spanish Creek and Big Flat. Monitor camping use of other locations to determine future shelter needs.

Discussion: Backpackers and beach hikers sometimes face very strong wind and rain conditions which develop rapidly. The coastal strand contains numerous makeshift shelters built by beach visitors to shield them from severe weather conditions. Provision of well built, unobtrusive weather shelters would reduce the proliferation of unsightly or even unsafe makeshift shelters along the coastal strand.

d. Sanitary Facilities

Action 6.15 Provide inconspicuous toilets at the following popular primitive camping areas along the beach, at Punta Gorda Lighthouse, Sea Lion Gulch, Randall Creek, Spanish Creek and Big Flat. Monitor human waste problems at other locations within the KRNCA to assess future sanitary facility needs.

e. Trail Development

Action 6.16 Develop a hiking and equestrian trail from the replacement parking lot north of Telegraph Creek along the terrace above the beach to Gitchell Creek.

Discussion: The combination of the terrace trail, replacement parking area, information and education, and on site rules enforcement should substantially reduce the conflicts which sometimes arise between King Range ORV users and other visitors.

Action 6.17 Build a pedestrian-only hiking trail connecting the beach at Miller Flat to the King Crest Trail.

Action 6.18 Improve the existing Buck Creek Trail (Horse Mt. to beach) to accommodate equestrian use.

Action 6.19 Develop trailheads with information boards, and vehicle parking at Spanish Ridge, Kinsey Ridge, King Crest Trail, King Range Road terminus, Horse Mt. and Saddle Mt.

Action 6.20 Develop an equestrian oriented interpretive trail along the first few miles of one of the equestrian trails outside the WSA boundary.

Action 6.21 Reroute the Bear Creek Trail (at Tolkan Campground) to reduce its average gradient and provide self-guided interpretation along it.

Action 6.22 Develop a barrier free trail at Chemise Mt. Recreation Area and Mal Coombs/Abalone Point interpretive trail.

Action 6.23 Extend the Horse Creek Mt. trail to the Lost Coast Trail at the beach.

Action 6.24 Develop a loop trail system at Kaluna Cliff and acquire legal access to the property.

Action 6.25 Study feasibility of rebuilding the Tanoak Ridge Horse Trail.

f. Other Developments

Action 6.26 Construct fences or barriers where needed to control unauthorized visitation or use from public lands onto private lands. Install effective barriers at entry chokepoints to preclude vehicle use within designated areas closed to vehicle use.

g. Rehabilitation

Action 6.27 Where access rights and associated roads are no longer required to access inholder's property, rehabilitate the access roads, either to serve as trails or to be totally eliminated.

h. Motorized Access

Action 6.28 Retain the existing King Range Transportation Plan (BLM, 1986).

Discussion: Motorized access needs within the KRNCA are satisfactorily provided for through the existing Transportation Plan.

7. Staffing

Action 7.1 Establish a full time maintenance staff, capable of handling all aspects of grounds and building maintenance, construction project supervision, heavy equipment operation, water system repair and water quality testing, sign construction, road and trail construction and repairs.

Action 7.2 Provide high-visibility BLM maintenance, law enforcement, visitor services staffing (including volunteers) in the KRNCA. Increase staffing during periods of unusually heavy visitation such as holiday weekends.

Discussion A full time visitor services, law enforcement and maintenance staff supported by volunteer efforts and additional seasonal staff will insure that facilities and use areas are maintained to BLM standards, and resource damage and conflicts between users is reduced. A strong field presence is a proven method for implementing management objectives and increasing visitor security and awareness.

8. Maintenance

Action 8.1 Prepare and implement a maintenance plan for KRNCA. The plan should address maintenance responsibilities of visitor management personnel, volunteers, contracts services, frequency of maintenance and specific tasks to be preformed at each site and cost.

9. Cooperative Agreements and Contracts

Action 9.1 Contract County Sheriff for patrol services and support to KRNCA staff.

Action 9.2 Develop Cooperative Management Agreements with user groups to help maintain those facilities, trails or areas from which these groups derive benefit.

Action 9.3 Develop Cooperative Management Agreements with user groups for trail system management.

Action 9.4 Establish a Cooperating Association to assist in operating the Visitor contact station and to generate revenues through the sale of books, magazines, photographs, postcards, etc.

Action 9.5 Develop cooperative agreements with local emergency services providers to enhance their capabilities and to effectively interface with BLM's emergency services personnel. Explore possibility of cost reimbursement for service provided.

Action 9.6 Enter into a memorandum of agreement with CA. Dept. of Parks & Rec. for cooperative wilderness management for the Chemise Mt./Sinkyone area to standardize information services, trail signing, etc.

Action 9.7 Maintain the agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for fire protection.

Action 9.8 Continue agreement with the State Public Lands Commission to enhance BLM management for the tidal zone and visitor-related impacts.

Action 9.9 Maintain agreement with the Humboldt County Harbor and Recreation District for administration of Mal Coombs Park.

Action 9.10 Develop a Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA) with the CA State Horsemans Association for the cooperative design, construction and maintenance of equestrian facilities and for management of equestrian uses within the KRNCA.

Action 9.11 Establish an agreement with the local State Employment Development Dept. to recruit seasonal and temporary employees.

Discussion: Due to the proprietary nature of BLM's jurisdiction over the KRNCA, close coordination with other Federal, State and local agencies and organizations will help insure more complete public service and keep the various agencies from working at cross-purposes.

10. Volunteers

Action 10.1 Establish campground host volunteer positions at Chemise Recreation Site and Mattole Recreation site. Provide volunteer host for other developed sites during heavy use periods (Tolkan, Horse Mountain). Recruit from the local area for volunteers to work as campground hosts, docents and visitor contact people at the visitor center or in the field.

11. Special Equipment

Action 11.1 Provide effective 2-way radio communications coverage for the entire KRNCA and insure that necessary volunteers and cooperating organizations and agencies have access to the radio net.

Action 11.2 Provide volunteer visitor services staff (campground hosts, docents, back country patrols, etc.) with radio communications.

12. Fire Management

Action 12.1 Include restrictions on wildfire suppression activities to protect cultural resource sites.

Action 12.2 Have volunteers supplement BLM staff in providing the visiting public with wildfire prevention information, emergency evacuation information and in issuing and checking compliance for CA. Interagency Campfire Permits.

Action 12.3 Establish an on site seasonal wildfire suppression organization properly trained and equipped for wildland, wilderness and limited structural fire suppression actions.

Action 12.4 Prohibit bonfires throughout the KRNCA from April first through November first annually and within zones 2, 3 and 4, year round.

Action 12.5 Maintain a wildfire suppression plan in cooperation with inholders and adjoining landowners.

Action 12.6 Post fire restrictions during high fire danger periods.

Action 12.7 Require campfire permits for campfires throughout the KRNCA during fire restriction periods (excluding developed campgrounds).

Action 12.8 Develop modified fire suppression and emergency services plans and necessary agreements to insure that fire fighting or rescue operations do not impair primitive, and where applicable, designated wilderness, values.

Action 12.9 Maintain natural-appearing helispots for rescue and wildfire suppression activities.

Discussion: Due to the uniqueness of the weather regime within the KRNCA, CDF fire restrictions are sometimes felt to be inadequate and fire protection services too limited. Additional fire protection measures by BLM would reduce the likelihood of wildfire seriously jeopardizing life, property and/or the natural and cultural resources within the area.

PART V. IMPLEMENTATION

A. Implementation Phasing and Costs

Costs include employee salaries, operating expenses, materials and contract labor expenses.

	Year after plan approval (dollars shown in thousands)									
ACTION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Land Tenure Adjustments										
1.1 Acquisition: Private landowner response unknown										
1.2 Inholdings: Dependent upon actions outside control of this plan.										
2. Information and Interpretive Services										
2.1 I & E Plan	8.0	25.0	10.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
2.2 Contact Sta.	0.0	0.0	1.5	7.0	7.0	7.0	-	-	-	5.0
2.3 Dir. Use	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
2.4 Walks	-	-	-	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
2.5 Elk	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
2.6 Jr. Ranger	-	-	-	-	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
2.7 Naturalist	-	-	-	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
2.8 For. Mgmt.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.3	4.5	4.5
2.9 Forms	-	-	-	-	0.3	-	-	0.3	-	-
2.10 Cassettes	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.3	5.3	0.8	0.8
2.11 Status	6.6	4.3	4.3	4.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
2.12 Turnouts	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
2.13 Emer. Ser.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.14 History	-	-	0.3	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	-	-
2.15 WSA-ISA	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.16 Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.17 Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.18 Refunds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.19 Monitor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.20 Signs	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
2.21 Reg. Signs	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
2.22 Dir. Signs	5.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
2.23 Boundaries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.24 Crossings	-	0.9	-	-	-	0.5	-	-	-	-
3. Visitor and Resource Protection										
3.1 Vis. Aware	6.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
3.2 Security	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
3.3 Horse Ptrl	-	-	10.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
3.4 Pack-out	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.5 Portacans	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
3.6 Capacities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.7 Permits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.8 Logs	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
3.9 LAC	33.0	6.6	6.6	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3

3.10 Inhold.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.11 Reroute	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.12 Barriers	-	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
3.13 Posting	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
3.14 Advice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.15 Day-use	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.16 Self-cont.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.17 Protection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.18 Big Flat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

4. Visitor Services

4.1 SAR Coop.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.2 Training	1.0	1.0	2.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
4.3 BLM SAR	1.0	1.0	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
4.4 Rangers	60.0	90.0	65.0	65.0	85.0	85.0	65.0	65.0	65.0	65.0

5. Special Area Permits and Commercial Use Administration

5.1 Hosts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.2 SRPs	Special Recreation Permit costs born by permittees.									
5.3 Adverts.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.4 Posting	-	-	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	-
5.5 Limits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

6. Facility Development

6.1 Mal Coombs	-	4.0	22.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
6.2 KRNCA Model	-	-	-	-	3.0	-	-	-	-	-
6.3 Con. Sta.	1.5	7.0	7.0	7.0	-	-	0.5	-	-	-
6.4 Vis. Cntr.	-	-	9.9	85.0	140.0	40.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
6.5 Kaluna C.	22.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	30.0	20.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
6.6 Barracks	9.0	3.0	60.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
6.7 Terrace Rd.	-	-	220.0	2.0	3.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
6.8 Mattole C.	-	-	6.0	30.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
6.9 Mattole DU	-	-	-	5.0	25.0	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
6.10 Tolkan	3.0	1.5	3.0	22.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.11 Springs	-	-	3.0	15.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
6.12 Design	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.13 Laurel Gl.	-	-	-	-	-	5.0	35.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
6.14 Shelters	-	-	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
6.15 Toilets	-	-	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
6.16 Ter. trail	-	-	9.0	9.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
6.17 Miller trl	-	-	4.5	9.5	9.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
6.18 Buck Crk tr	-	2.5	2.5	-	-	-	2.5	-	-	-
6.19 Trailhds	6.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
6.20 Equ. Trlhd.	-	-	-	-	15.0	-	-	-	-	-
6.21 Bear Crk	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	9.5	7.0	-	-
6.22 HC Trl.	-	-	-	-	-	12.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
6.23 Horse Crk	-	-	6.0	9.5	9.5	9.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
6.24 Kaluna Trl	-	-	-	-	-	6.6	9.5	9.0	-	-
6.25 Tanoak Sty	-	-	-	-	3.3	-	-	-	-	-

6.26 Fences	-	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
6.27 Rehab.	-	-	10.0	-	10.0	10.0	-	-	-	-
6.28 Trans. Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Staffing										
7.1 Maint.	30.0	39.0	75.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0
7.2 LE-VS	60.0	75.0	90.0	95.	120.	135.	160.	160.	165.	165.0
8. Maintenance										
8.1 Maint. Pln.	4.5	5.0	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-
9. Cooperative Agreements and Contracts										
9.1 Sheriff	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
9.2 CMAs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.3 CMA-trls	-	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
9.4 Coop. Ass.	-	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
9.5 SAR	-	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
9.6 CA P&R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.7 CDF&P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.8 PLC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.9 H&RD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.10 CSHA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.11 EDD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Volunteers										
10.1 Hosts	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
11. Special Equipment										
11.1 Radio Cov.	-	15.0	-	-	-	-	5.0	-	-	-
11.2 Radios	-	10.0	-	-	-	5.0	-	-	-	-
12. Fire Management										
12.1 Mod. Supp.	-	-	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.2 Vol. check	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.3 Fire Crew	-	-	60.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0
12.4 Bonfires	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.5 Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.6 Post	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
12.7 Permits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.8 Supp. Plan	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.9 Helispots	2.5	2.5	2.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
TOTALS	307.8	438.9	861.0	754.6	828.5	713.3	680.7	647.3	628.2	632.7

B. Standard Implementation Procedures

Implementation of any of the previously listed actions on Bureau administered lands would be subject to existing laws, regulations, and BLM Manual specifications, and would be constrained to avoid or minimize impacts that could occur to other resources as follows:

1. A site-specific environmental analysis (EA) will be conducted prior to actual construction or treatment phase of the facilities or projects proposed. During the early scoping stage of an EA, the proposed project will, whenever possible, be modified to avoid or minimize identified potential negative impacts. The EA will document the magnitude and type of impacts of proposed development or treatment to assist in making a decision on each proposal.

2. An analysis of potential effects on rare, threatened, endangered, and State sensitive plants and animals will be required for each proposal. If needed, formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be initiated. If any part of the proposal will have a negative impact on an officially listed rare, threatened, or endangered species, or its habitat, the project will either be modified to avoid this impact or abandoned. If any part of the proposed project will have a negative impact on a State sensitive species, the project will be modified to avoid the impact where possible. Where it is not feasible to so modify the project, a determination will be made as to the effects on the species (or subspecies) as a whole. Informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be initiated to aid in this determination. If it is determined that the project will not result in jeopardy to the species, the project may be approved; otherwise, it will be abandoned. The final determination will be made by the State Director.

3. The BLM will meet agency responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (as amended) through stipulations outlined in the Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement (PMOA) between the BLM and the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation dated May 15, 1986.

A Class III Cultural/Historical Inventory will be conducted prior to commencement of any development activities which involve land disturbance.

The Bureau of Land Management will design the development program to avoid adverse effects on properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, unless it is not prudent or feasible. Where avoidance is not prudent or feasible, the Bureau will consult with the State

Historic Preservation Officer for purposes of developing a mutually acceptable mitigation plan. Mitigation will be implemented prior to ground disturbing activities.

4. All actions will be in conformance with the management objectives as described in the King Range Management Program of 1974.

VI. Monitoring

A. Resources to be Monitored

The objectives of the KRNCA Visitor Services Plan are specified by Visitor Management Zone (VMZ) as shown in Part IV-B. of the plan. These objectives require that the physical, social, and managerial environments within each VMZ combine to create an "experience opportunity" which is consistent with the management objectives for the VMZ. BLM planning combined with the environmental assessment process insures that direct BLM management actions involving resource and/or use modifications, whether by BLM or authorized public land users, will conform to the management objectives and not jeopardize the experience opportunity specified for the particular VMZ. In order to insure that public uses or BLM management actions do not result in a cumulative change which violates the objectives for each zone, potential agents of such a change must be identified and Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) must be specified for each VMZ. In the KRNCA, the condition of natural and cultural resources, as well as the perceptions of the visiting public and agency staff, can be monitored to determine how well the management program is meeting the objectives of the Visitor Services Plan.

B. Change Agents and Indicators Requiring Monitoring

1. Agents of Change

Apart from naturally occurring phenomena such as lightning-caused wildfire, earthquakes, landsides and weather, the only agent of change which is not under the direct management control of the BLM is the general public (including neighbors and inholders). Direct agency control of the public is generally not a desireable or necessary goal and would, in and of itself, violate the area's management objectives in most cases. However, the visiting public can affect the desired experience opportunity in a VMZ in three basic ways; either through excessive user density, by pursuing activities or using technologies which are inconsistent with the setting, or by modifying the physical environment in such a way that the zone objectives are violated.

2. Indicators of Change

a. Visitation Increases - Increases in general visitation, if they occur during the traditionally heavy use season and are sustained over time may signal that the area's overall carrying capacity, as determined by the VMZ criteria, is being approached.

b. Activity Preference Shifts - The existing and planned mix of developed and undeveloped sites will accommodate the traditional distribution and numbers of visitors engaged in recreational activities. A significant shift in activity preferences could overload some sites and/or create conflicts between competing activities within sites or areas.

c. New Technologies - The advent of new technologies or new applications of technologies can create unanticipated impacts to both social and physical environments. Past examples are off-road vehicles, hang gliders, motorhomes, "boom boxes" and styrofoam containers.

d. Resource Dependent Businesses - The advent of outfitter and guide service businesses which depend on the use of public land resources can create increased pressure on the social and physical settings by drawing visitors who would not otherwise consider visiting the area.

e. Economic Factors - Changes in the distribution of wealth or in the price of goods and services can lead to increased travel and visitation as occurs when gasoline prices fall. Another example is the increased incidence of fuelwood theft from public lands when heating fuel prices rise.

f. Demographic Shifts - Changes in the cultural make-up of visitors can place new demands upon resources and facilities. An increase in non-English speaking visitors could lead to increased non-compliance problems due to misunderstanding of spoken or printed rules, regulations, and directional information.

g. Environmental Factors - Changes in environmental conditions, both within the area and outside it, can have a substantial impact upon use levels. Unseasonably wet weather could result in hikers or equestrians damaging trails which would withstand use under normal weather conditions.

C. Limits of Acceptable Change

Both the physical and social settings, consisting of the measurable criteria under the VMZ objectives for each zone, need to be monitored to insure that visitor use is consistent with the VSP. Monitoring is accomplished by establishing thresholds for measurable resource conditions. These thresholds represent the limits of acceptable change or LAC.

1. Visitor Management Zone 1.

a. Physical Setting Criteria Thresholds

1. Visual or audio intrusions must not be allowed in the foreground and middleground.

2. Irreversible evidence of man will not occupy more than one percent of the area.

3. No air, water and/or noise pollution.

4. The natural environment will be essentially unmodified.

5. Only facilities essential for resource protection and visitor safety will be provided. No facilities are provided for visitor comfort or convenience. Facilities will be constructed only from on-site materials.

b. Social Setting Criteria Thresholds

1. Group spacing is informal and dispersed to minimize contact frequency. There is very little evidence of other visitors.

2. Frequency of contact is very low (1-2 parties per day at commonly used sites).

3. User density does not exceed from one person per 40 densely wooded acres to one person per 500 acres in wide open areas.

2. Visitor Management Zone 2 and 3 (VMZ 3 differs from VMZ 2 only in that motorized uses may be encountered in VMZ 3. Motorized uses are not allowable in VMZ 2).

a. Physical Setting Criteria Thresholds

1. Visual or audio intrusions must not occur in the foreground or middleground from other than recreational use.

2. Irreversible evidence of man must not occupy more than 5 percent of the area.

3. Air, water and/or noise pollution must not exceed low intensity and frequency of occurrence.

4. A predominately natural environment must be maintained. No more than 70 percent of the area may contain subtle resource modifications. No

more than 3 percent of the area may contain obvious resource modifications. This includes the sum total of both public and private lands within the area.

5. Facilities may be provided for resource protection and visitor safety. Construction is from on-site materials where possible.

b. Social Setting Criteria Thresholds

1. Formalized group spacing may be used to disperse use. Evidence of others is observable.

2. Frequency of contact with other users is low to moderate (5 parties per day).

3. User density does not exceed a range of from one person per 12.5 acres in uneven, densely wooded areas to one person per 100 plus acres in wide open areas.

3. Visitor Management Zone 4.

a. Physical Setting Criteria Thresholds

1. Visual intrusions must not occur within the foreground.

2. Irreversible evidence of man must not occupy more than 25 percent of the area.

3. Air, water and/or noise pollution must not exceed moderate intensity and frequency of occurrence.

4. A predominately natural environment must be maintained. Modifications may be evident but must be harmonious with the natural environment. No more than 70 percent of the area may contain subtle resource modifications. No more than 25 percent of the area may contain obvious resource modifications. This includes the sum total of both public and private lands within the area.

5. Facilities may be provided for user convenience, safety, resource protection and/or to enhance recreation opportunities.

b. Social Setting Criteria Thresholds

1. Moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of man and these usually harmonious with the natural environment.

2. Frequency of visitor contact is moderate at developed sites; low to moderate away from developed sites.

3. User density does not exceed one person at one time per acre overall.

4. Visitor Management Zone 5.

a. Physical Setting Criteria Thresholds

1. Irreversible evidence of man may occupy up to 50 percent of the area.

2. Air, water and/or noise pollution are high in intensity or frequency.

3. Substantial resource modifications to enhance recreation activities and to maintain soil and vegetative cover.

4. Facilities may be provided for specialized uses and to accomodate large numbers of visitors. Facilities are provided for intensive motor vehicle use and parking.

b. Social Setting Criteria Thresholds

1. Sights and sounds of man readily evident.

2. Frequency of contact with other visitors is moderate to high.

3. User density ranges from one to eight persons per acre at one time.

5. Triggers for Management Concern and Action

If any of the physical or social setting criteria thresholds are approached, management concern would be appropriate. If any of the thresholds are exceeded (exclusive of unusual "shock" events such as an unusually heavy July fourth holiday weekend), then corrective management action should be triggered. All corrective management action possibilities cannot be foreseen; however, readily available actions such as restricting commercial use, rescheduling use, requiring permits or closing certain areas to certain types of uses could be considered.

D. Monitoring Methodology

1. Mechanisms

There are six tools which BLM uses to monitor visitor use and resource conditions. These are as follows:

a. Patrol Logs

Visitor services and law enforcement personnel perform regular patrols of all the public lands within the KRNCA. Observations of numbers of visitors, activities and violations of rules are recorded on the patrol logs which are completed on a daily or per patrol basis. These logs are then reviewed by the supervisor and provide an immediate record of visitor use and resource problems.

b. Site Monitoring Reports

Selected sites are periodically monitored using photographic and other recording methodologies for comparative purposes. Monitoring reports based upon these observations are compiled annually and used by resource management specialists to recommend corrective actions.

c. Campground Permit Fee Envelopes

Fee envelopes provide information concerning numbers of visitors, primary recreational activities, place of origin and duration of visit. This information is voluntarily supplied by the visitor.

d. Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)

SRPs for commercial, competitive and special area uses or events provide information on party size, frequency of use, activities, facilities used or provided, duration of use and any incidents or problems encountered by the permittee. They also provide a direct feedback mechanism to administering BLM personnel concerning the condition of the resources and facilities during routine compliance checks and post-use reports.

e. Traffic Counters

Traffic counters provide gross data on vehicular traffic near recreation sites and facilities, and after proper ground-proofing, can be used to measure gross use of areas when no agency personnel are present to record observations.

f. Correspondence, Telephone Inquiries and Complaints

Some of the most useful information concerning visitor use and resource conditions is volunteered by the general public in the form of letters, telephone calls, personal contacts with agency personnel and volunteers, inquiries and complaints. Often this sort of information takes the form of a request for a special service or a complaint about a situation the visitor encountered and wishes to see resolved.

2. Data Collection

Data collection is an integral part of virtually all resource and visitor management activity, and occurs on a daily basis with routine law enforcement and visitor service patrols, as well as constantly through various off-site contacts with the public. Cultural resource sites and special habitat monitoring sites are reviewed periodically and reported at least annually unless damage is occurring, in which case monitoring would be increased.

3. Data Analysis

Patrol logs and fee envelope data are reviewed on a daily basis by the program leader. Any unusual deviation in a change agent should be noticed. Also, the perceptions of visitor services personnel and volunteers are taken into account as they report their observations.

During the annual compilation of use records for the Recreation Management Information System (RMIS) report near the end of each fiscal year, use levels, activity preferences and trends are compared to prior year records and effects of visitor use on planned carrying capacities as defined by the VMZ objectives are assessed. Subtle changes in visitor use become apparent during this analysis process.

E. Thresholds Triggering Management Concern

The following thresholds which can be identified through monitoring can serve as indicators that the planned visitor use capacities and uses are being violated and may require corrective management actions.

1. Visitor Management Zone Use Levels

When or if use levels exceed the prescribed levels (more people at one time per acre than specified above) for a visitor management zone.

2. Resource Alteration/Damage

Visitor caused resource alteration can take many forms. Some of the most common indicators of this situation include such things as vehicles parked along narrow roadways or atop natural vegetation because provided parking spaces are unavailable. Noticeable quantities of human waste near sites which have sanitary facilities, compacted ground in backcountry campsites and damaged vegetation in places where evidence of use was previously absent are also common indicators.

It is important that the sources of resource damage be identified by direct observation if possible so that over-use can be distinguished from deliberate illegal activity such as vandalism.

3. Visitor Conflicts

One of the most compelling indicators that planned uses have exceeded the designed use capacity is evidence of conflict between previously tolerant visitors. Conflict may occur between visitors pursuing the same type of experience as well as between visitors seeking different experience opportunities. Conflict usually is the result of one or both involved visitors having their expectations interfered with by the other.

4. Permittee Complaints

When a resource dependent activity is permitted by BLM and it is nearing its carrying capacity (usually determined by a perceived shortage of a certain resource), permit holders will often demand that limitations on use be imposed by BLM action. Care must be exercised to insure that activity competition rather than resource depletion or actual crowding is not the principal motivation for permittee complaints.

F. Use of Monitoring Data

Monitoring data is used to compile reports, as previously noted, and to identify problems as well as opportunities to improve management of the KRNCA. The data is also used to amplify budget requests and support resource manipulation and visitor management recommendations. Additionally, in reviewing the impact of proposed resource management actions, monitoring data can often provide quantifiable comparisons for alternative selection.

Most importantly however, monitoring provides the means for measuring the success or failure of both planned actions and the day-to-day operations for which the BLM is responsible within the KRNCA.

GLOSSARY

Allotment - An area of Federal land for which a livestock operator has a license to graze livestock.

Anadromous Fish - Fish that migrate as adults from the ocean into fresh water streams to reproduce.

ACEC - Area of Critical Environmental Concern - Public land where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Commercial Forest Land - Forest land that is now producing or is capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet of wood per acre per year of commercial tree species.

Critical Winter Range - A specific area within a general winter range that receives a higher degree of use and is of greater significance to migrating deer and elk during winter months.

Cultural Resource - Any definite location of past human activity identifiable through field survey, historical documentation, or oral evidence; includes archaeological sites, structures, or places, and places of traditional cultural or religious importance to specified groups whether or not represented by physical remains.

Cultural Site - Any location that includes prehistoric and/or historic evidence of human use or that has important sociocultural value.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - A formal document to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency that considers significant environmental impacts expected from a major Federal action.

Historic Site - A cultural resource resulting from activities or events dating to the historic period.

National Register of Historic Places - A formal list, established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation at the local, state or national level.

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) - Any motorized vehicle capable of travel over land or water.

Recreation Experience Opportunity - The opportunity for a person to realize predictable psychological and physiological outcomes from engaging in a specific recreation activity within a specific setting.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) - A continuum used to characterize recreation opportunities in terms of setting, activity, and experience opportunities. The spectrum contains six classes.

Scenic Quality - The relative worth of a landscape from a visual perception point of view.

Visual Resources - The visible physical features on a landscape: e.g., land, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features.

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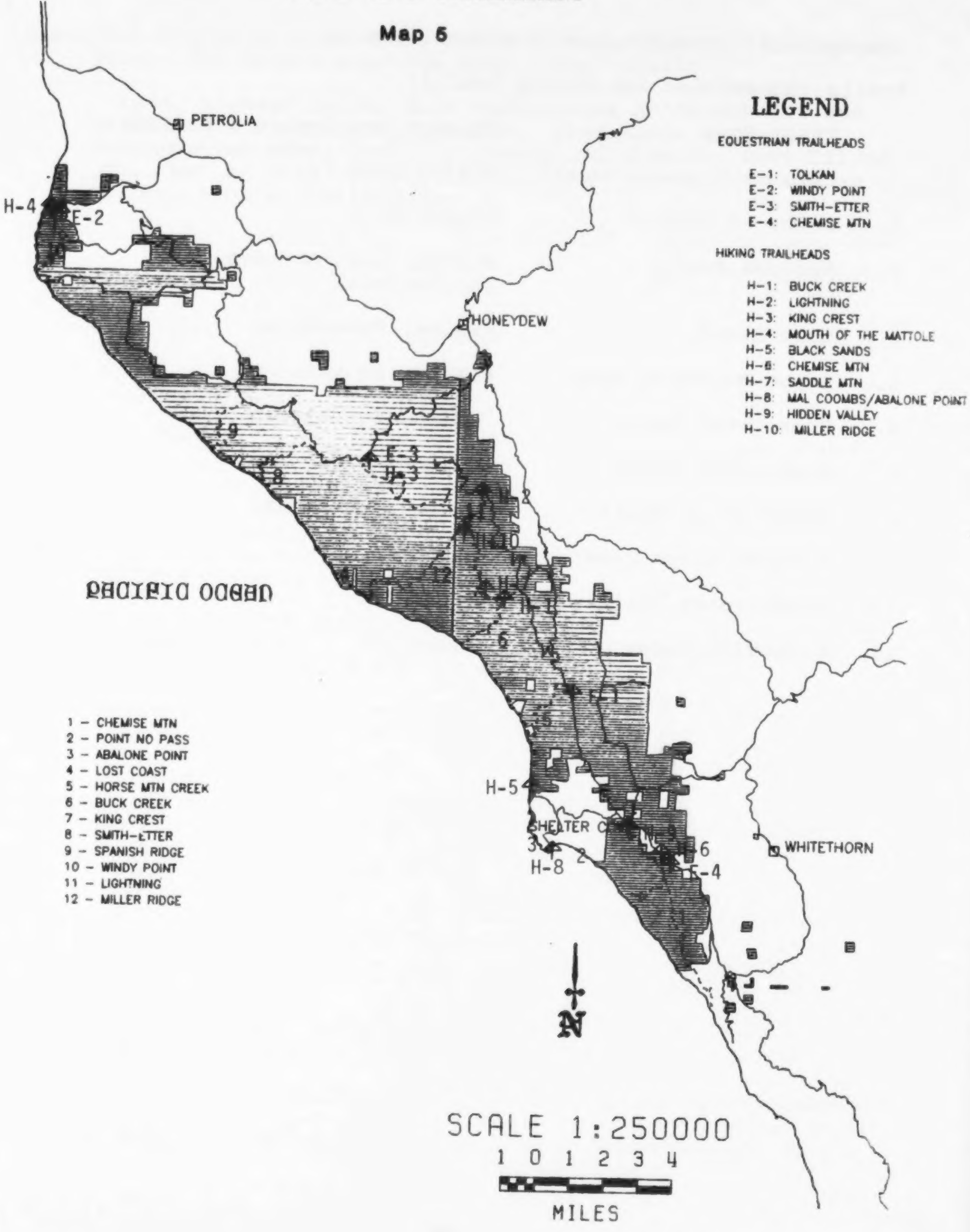
Appendix A. Concept Plan for Developments

Trails (Equestrian and Hiking Trails)

	Trail Name	Primary Use	Design Standards
1.	Chemise Mountain Trail	Hiking Only	
2.	Point No Pass	Hiking Only	
3.	Abalone Point	Hiking, Interpretive Trail (Accessible)	
4.	Lost Coast	Hiking, Equestrian	
5.	Horse Mountain Trail	Hiking, Equestrian	
6.	Buck Creek Trail	Hiking, Equestrian	
7.	King Crest Trail	Hiking	
8.	Smith Etter Trail	Hiking, Equestrian	
9.	Spanish Ridge Trail	Equestrian	
10.	Windy Point Trail	Equestrian	
11.	Lightning Ridge	Hiking	

KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
TRAILS AND TRAILHEADS

Map 5



Appendix B. Recreation Facility Development Concept Plan

TYPE	Map No.	NAME OF FACILITY	PRIMARY SERVICES PROVIDED
Equestrian Trailheads (Trailhead containing equestrian facilities)			
	E -1.	Tolkan	a,b,c,d,e,h
	E -2.	Windy point trailhead	a,d
	E -3.	Smith Etter Trailhead (concept only)	a,d
Hiking/Equestrian Trailheads (Hiking trailhead which may be useable for equestrian use also)			
	H -1.	Buck Creek Trailhead	a,d
	H -2.	Lightning Trailhead	a,d
	H -3.	King Crest Trailhead	a,d
	H -4.	Mattole Staging Area (Concept Only)	a,b,c,d,h,k
	H -5.	Black Sands Beach (Staging Area)	a,b,c,d,h
	H -6.	Chemise Mountain Trailhead (Located within Nadelos/ Wailaki Recreation Complex)	d
	H -7.	Saddle Mountain Trailhead	a,d
	H -8.	Mal Coombs/Abalone Point TrailHeads (hiking,driving)	a,b,c,d,h,j,k
	H -9.	Hidden Valley Mountain Trailhead	d
	H -10.	Miller Ridge Trailhead	d.
Developed Campgrounds			
	1.	Chemise Mountain Recreation Site (formally Nadoles, Wailaki)	a,b,c,d,f,g,k,h,i,l

2.	Tolkan Equestrian Campground	a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h
4.	Horse Mountain Campground	a,b,c,d,f,h
5.	Mattole Recreation Site (site to be determined)	a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i
6.	Mattole Day Use Area	a,b,c,d,h,k

Facilities Key

Primary Services Provided

a. parking
b. sanitary (toilets)
c. trash collection
d. information (directional, educational and/or administrative)
e. Corral (equestrian)
f. Overnight Camping (single family)
g. Overnight Camping (Group)
h. Water
i. Host
j. Manned Visitor Contact
k. Picnic

King Range Administrative Site (Whitethorn)

Residence
- Single Family
- Barracks
- Temporary (Seasonal staff)

Warehouse (Fire cache)
Shop
Vehicle Storage
Animal Storage (corrals, barn)
Administrative Office
Site Amenities (i.e., volleyball, horseshoes, recreation)
Fuel Storage/vehicle service
Communications
Commons area (i.e., pool table, gathering, television, meeting area)
Employee Services (i.e., laundry, common kitchen)
Wareyard (uncovered storage)
Access

Kaluna Cliffs Ranger Residence

- Residence (transient or permanent)
- Vehicle Storage
- Storage
- Site Amenities
- Horse Facility

Visitor Contact Station

- Interpretive displays
- Informational materials dispensers
- Orientation map
- Vehicle parking
  - At Mal Coombs and Visitor Center only.
- Public telephone
- Potable water
- Toilets

Appendix C. KRNCA Visitor Service Plan - Interpretive Service Element

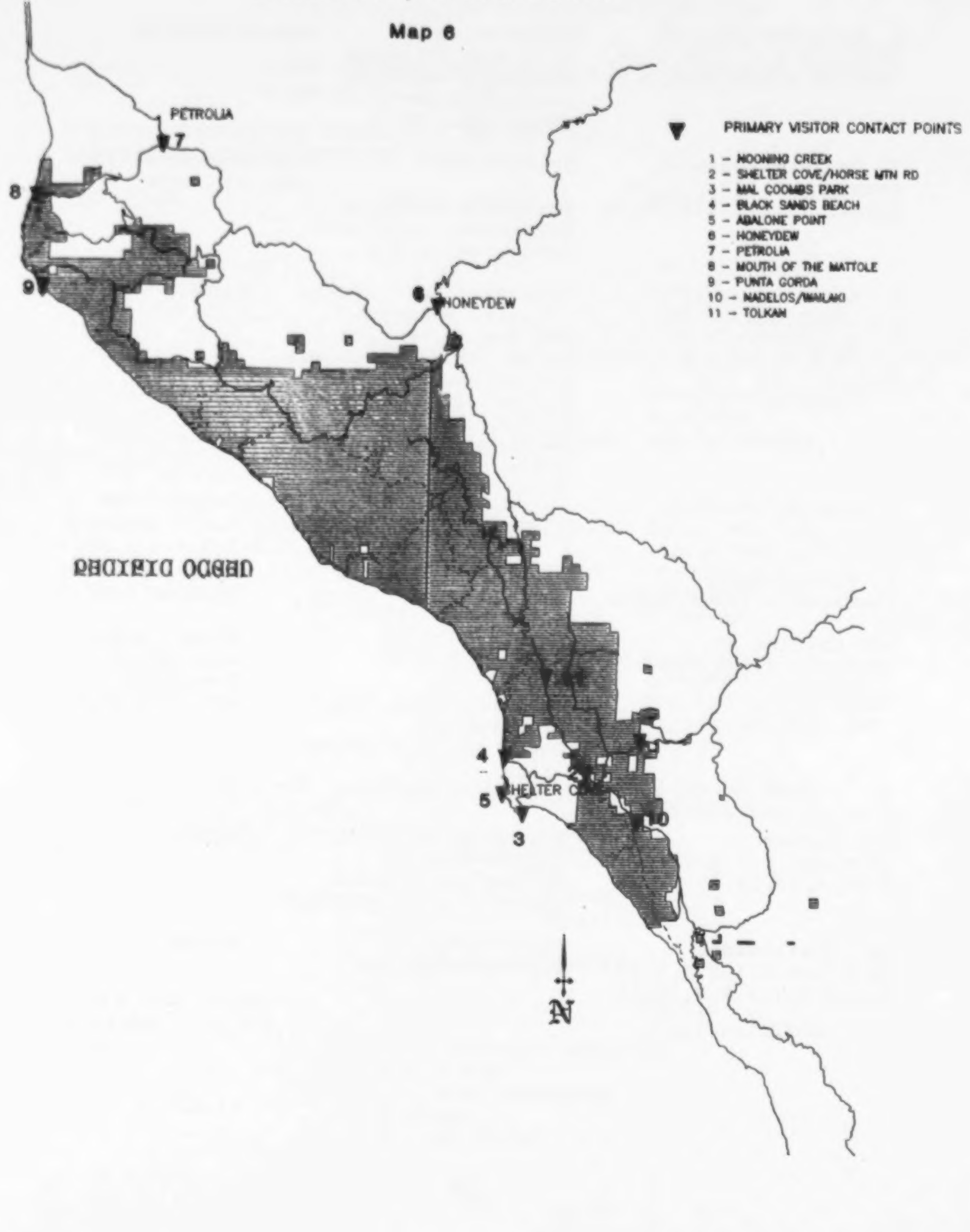
VISITOR INFORMATION CONTACT SITES AND MAJOR INFORMATION/INTERPRETATION THEME

SITE NAME	MAJOR THEME	METHOD
1. Nooning Creek (Action 2.8)	Orientation Non-recreation resource management	Entrance Sign Kiosk Orientation map Static displays Observation deck
2. Shelter Cove/ Horse Mt. Road Intersection (Actions 2.19,2.22,6.3)	Orientation Coastal viewing Hiking information	Directional signs Overlook Map/brochures
3. Mal Coombs Park (Actions 2.1,2.13,2.15 2.20,3.2,3.8,3.9,3.12, 3.13,3.17,5.2,6.1,9.9, 5.3)	Tidal zone Marine flora/fauna Cultural resources Permits maps/brochures and emergency services	Interpretive walk Small visitor center/contact station with interpretive displays, knowledgeable operator. Visitor center open during heavier use periods.
4. Black Sands Beach (Actions 2.1,2.13,2.21, 3.1,3.2,3.3,3.4,3.13, 6.3,12.4,12.6,12.7)	Beach-coastal info. Low-impact camping Low-impact vehicle use Hiking hazards Emergency services Off-highway vehicle regulations Permit requirements	Kiosk mounted information
5. Abalone Point (Actions 2.1,2.7, 2.20)	Whale watching Environmental education Tidal zone Cultural resources History Scenic views	Static displays/signs

6. Honeydew Outpost (Actions 2.1,2.13,2.15, 2.17,3.1,5.3,12.6,2.2)	Orientation in a rack in Store Emergency services Commercial services (shuttles, etc.)	Maps/brochures
7. Petrolia Outpost (Actions 2.1,2.2,2.13, 2.15,2.17,3.1,5.3,12.6)	Orientation Emergency services Commercial services (shuttles, etc.)	Maps/brochures in a rack in Store
8. Mouth of Mattole (2.1,2.3,2.13,2.14, 2.20,2.21,3.1,3.2, 3.4,3.8,5.1,5.4,6.3, 12.6)	Estuarial information Cultural resources Day use recreation Punta Gorda Lighthouse Trails/hiking Marine flora/fauna Permits (self service) Parking-trip staging Tides Rules/regulations Equestrian information Low-impact camping	Kiosk
9. Punta Gorda (Actions 2.1,3.8,2.20)	Lighthouse history	Plaque display Visitor reg.
10. Chemise Mt. (Actions 2.1,2.5,2.7, 2.13,2.21)	Trails	Kiosk, signs, self-guide brochures
	Wildlife (elk, etc.) Orientation Environmental/nature walks Emergency services	brochure-maps
11. Tolkan (Actions 2.1,2.3,2.13, 2.21,9.10,12.6)	Emergency services Orientation Hiking information Equestrian information	Kiosk
12. Trailheads (Actions 2.1,2.3,2.21, 3.1,3.2,3.4,3.8,12.6)	Orientation Use restrictions	Signs

KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
VISITOR INFORMATION POINTS

Map 6



Appendix D. **Resources in the KRNCA**

The Recreation Management Situation.

The KRNCA contains a wide range of natural resource based recreation opportunities. The BLM describes recreation opportunities using the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (BLM Manual Part 8320) which applies a set of criteria to a land area's physical, social and managerial settings to describe the existing conditions which in combination define a land area's capability and suitability for providing a particular range of recreational experience opportunities. The KRNCA contains five of the six ROS settings, lacking only the Urban Class or environment and Urban recreation activity opportunities (i.e. spectator sports, ice-skating, court games, swimming pools, etc.). Most of the KRNCA provides Primitive and Semi-Primitive recreation opportunities such as hiking, camping, backpacking, nature study and so on. The total existing Public Land acreage within the KRNCA represented by each of the ROS Classes is as follows:

ROS CLASS	ACREAGE
Primitive	19,313.33
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	11,086.26
Semi-Primitive Motorized	24,359.57
Roaded Natural	1,176.43
Semi-Urban	40.89

General recreation activities include hiking, ocean viewing, backpacking, off-road vehicle play, beach combing, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, surfing, hunting, mountain bicycle and horseback riding. Total recreation use is estimated to be 14,325 visitor days per year. Approximately 37% (5,300 visitor days) of use is for hiking, backpacking and other non-motorized/non-facility dependent recreation.

Roads provide motorized access to the northern and eastern portions of VMZ 2, as well as parts of VMZ 3,5,6 and 7. Both motorized use off roads and hiking off trails is severely limited by steep terrain and heavy vegetation over much of the KRNCA, the exceptions being the grassland areas in the northerly portion of Zone 2 and the beach.

Three miles of beach between Shelter Cove and Gitchell Creek are open to off-road vehicle use. This beach area receives an estimated 2,200 visitor days use per year. The remainder of the beach is closed to motorized vehicle use.

The 16-mile King Crest Trail provides foot and horse access along the main coastal ridge north of Shelter Cove. Other trails include the Lightning Trail (3 miles), Spanish Ridge Road/Trail

(3 miles), Buck Creek Trail (3 miles) and Chemise Mt. Trail (5 miles). The 21 miles of beach north of Gitchell Creek provides hikers and backpackers with a relatively accessible yet primitive setting. Most of the non-motorized use in the KRNCA occurs along the beach.

Developed recreation facilities include Wailaki Campground (2,370 visitor days/year), Nadelos Campground (558 visitor days/year), Tolkan Campground (360 visitor days/year), Horse Mt. Campground (477 visitor days/year), Mattole Recreation Site (1,300 visitor days/year) and Mal Coombs Park (1,760 visitor days/year).

The KRNCA was evaluated for its wilderness resources in the Wilderness Recommendations, Arcata Resource Area, King Range WSA and Chemise Mountain ISA, Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1988. This study finds that portions of the KRNCA totaling 24,960 acres are suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

2. Visual Resources.

The BLM's Visual Resource Management (VRM) System rates the KRNCA landscape as having high scenic quality along the coastline and the Mattole River Valley. The upland areas are only slightly less distinctive and overall are rated as having high to moderate scenic quality. Views range from intimate foreground to backgrounds of splendid vistas. Viewer sensitivity toward the area is high.

The VRM system establishes management classes that set standards for maintaining the visual resources. The entire coastline is designated VRM Class 2, which precludes management activities which would be evident intrusions in the characteristic landscape. The Mattole River Valley and the east slope are managed as VRM Class 3, which allows management activities to be visible, but they must remain subordinate to the existing landscape.

3. Forest Resources

The KRNCA is a rugged, isolated brush/timber covered mountain range. The condition of the commercial forest land (CFL) is mainly one of neglect. Wildfires have been the controlling factor, allowing hardwood/brush to compete successfully with Douglas Fir for control of the various sites. Timberlands on the west side of the King Range are relatively undisturbed due to steep terrain and general lack of access. There are approximately 12,000 acres of CFL on the west side of the King Range. The eastern slopes are less steep and contain several areas which are producing good quality commercial timber. The east side contains approximately 25,000 acres of CFL of which approximately half is in a cutover condition.

Douglas Fir is the major commercial species, with sugar pine scattered at the higher elevations. Tanoak, madrone, and alder make up the majority of the hardwoods. Hardwood brush dominates a large part of the KRNCA.

Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) dominates the overstory in the climax situation with tan oak Lithocarpus densiflorus) commonly forming a secondary canopy in the understory. Other understory species include madrone(Arbutus menziesii), live oaks (Quercus spp) and California huckleberry (Vaccinum ovatum). In situations where Douglas-fir becomes a closed crowned overstory, tanoak is reduced to a shrub form. The structure of the forests is typically multi-storied with Douglas-fir forming an irregular overstory and tan oak and madrone forming a more regular continuous lower canopy.

On xeric sites and higher elevations, sugar pine (Pinus lambertiana) becomes a co-dominant with Douglas-fir. A good example of this community is found along Horse Pasture Ridge Road.

In addition to the above mentioned forest, a variety of chaparral types are present. These communities are found mainly on hot, south-facing slopes and ridge tops where soil moisture regimes are too dry to support mixed evergreen forests. Characteristic climax species are members of the genera Arctostaphylos and Ceanothus. Grassy meadows are also a significant vegetation type, especially in the northern part of the King Range.

Timberlands on the west side are classified for protective management compatible with wildlife, recreation, and visual resources. The timberlands on the east side are intended for timber management. An old growth reserve of approximately 2,680 acres has been established in Honeydew Creek and 13 MMbf have been withdrawn from the available commercial forest land base.

4. Range Resources

The KRNCA includes approximately 11,600 acres of grazing leases that provide 3,000 animal unit months (AUMs) of forage for domestic livestock. Five grazing leases occur within the area. Extant range improvements consist of approximately ten miles of fencelines, four barns and associated corrals, five enclosures, twenty utilization cages, and four water troughs. Grazing activity is limited to the northern half of the KRNCA.

The grasslands of the King Range have been ranched for over a century. Grazing on Federal land was not authorized within this area until 1983 because land that was in public ownership prior to 1983 was so scattered that it was not manageable for livestock grazing use. Since 1983 much of the land that has been acquired by BLM has been determined to be suitable for livestock grazing under the principles of multiple use management.

5. Wildlife

The general vicinity of the KRNCA contains a unique mixture of terrestrial and marine habitat, supporting a wide diversity of animal species. Offshore rocks, kelp beds, and tidal areas are inhabited by seals, sea lions, and a variety of marine birds and play a major role in the life cycle of a variety of fish species. The terrestrial Douglas-fir forest and coastal chaparral habitat types support populations of black-tailed deer, black bear, quail, blue grouse, and a wide variety of non-game birds and mammals. Numerous raptors and a variety of fur-bearers such as river otter and mink inhabit the area. Several threatened wildlife species have been observed in the area, including brown pelican, bald eagle, spotted owl, and Peregrine falcon.

In addition to the aforementioned species, mountain lion, bobcat, and coyote are apparently present. Also, an attempt is underway to re-establish a viable Roosevelt elk population by transplanting animals from Redwood National Park and Prairie Creek Redwood State Park.

The Mattole River and its tributaries provide spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead, silver salmon, and king salmon. Approximately 80 miles of the streams within the KRNCA contain sufficient water to support fish populations. Resident fish species include sculpin and rainbow trout. Lampreys migrate into many of the area's streams and nests have been observed in Honeydew Creek.

While the entire shoreline is utilized by marine wildlife, the Gorda Rock and Punta Gorda offshore area supports an important concentration area for Stellar sea lion and other marine animals.

The intertidal zone between the Mattole River and Whale Gulch was designated as an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) by the California Water Resources Control Board.

6. Geology/Mineral & Energy Resources

A Mineral Resource Potential Report was prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines for the KRNCA to identify energy and mineral resources. The report states that the potential for economic development of energy-related or metallic mineral resources is low to moderate. No oil or gas seeps or coal seams were detected. Low porosity and permeability of the Franciscan sandstones which underlie the area indicates a very low potential for oil and gas. The geothermal resource potential of the area is also low.

Minor manganese resources occur near Queen's Peak. The manganese forms small stratabound deposits associated with radiolarian chert and pillow basalt. The known deposits are too small and the manganese too low in concentration for further economic exploitation. Similar manganese mineralization may occur within a belt of melange in the southwest corner of the King Range and Chemise Mt. but economic deposits are unlikely.

Geologic and geochemical field data indicate almost no gold potential and low potential for lead, zinc, copper, and silver.

Currently there are 14 lode claims within the KRNCA. These were filed in 1982 and are located near Queen's Peak.

The KRNCA provides a case study in erosional dynamics. The severe and persistent erosion includes dissection due to youthful, steep gradient coastal streams and mass wasting (slumps and slides). The primary reason for such widespread erosion is the orogenic uplift of this section of the coastline due to tectonic plate movement. The KRNCA is situated on the leading edge of the North American Plate, which in its westerly movement grinds over the Pacific Plate, intensively fracturing bedrock as it lifts skyward. The crushed, steep, King Range is subsequently eroded by gravity and running water. High annual rainfall and incessant coastal wave action exacerbate the situation.

Along the coastline wave-cut terraces can be identified. These terraces have been preserved by episodic uplift. Radiocarbon dating reveals that the shoreline has risen some 66 feet over the last 6,000 years.

7. Lands

Land ownership within the KRNCA is a mixture of private and public land. Approximately 55,576 acres are public and 7,635 are private.

There are no FERC withdrawals within the KRNCA; the only withdrawal being the KRNCA itself, which was established by Act of Congress October 21, 1970 (Public Law 91-476).
There is one active mining claim located on the Queen's Peak Mine (T.4S., R.1E., Section 34, E2E2, within and Section 35, W2W2, within).

The following rights-of-way have been issued for roads: CA 19386 for 40' and CA 13757 for 50'. Right-of-way CA 17939 was issued for a water tank. BLM has reserved rights-of-way for roads within the KRNCA (CA8333 for 10' and 50' and CA 3091 for 100'). BLM has acquired the following road easements within the KRNCA:

CA 14666, CA 19649, CA 20166, CA 3828, CA 2647, CA 4031, CA 3622, CA 3092, CA 1904, and CA 2735.

8. Cultural Resources

The KRNCA has 121 recorded prehistoric and ethnographic sites of which 62 are located along the coastal strand from the Mouth of the Mattole River to Shelter Cove with remains of ethnographic villages, campsites, shell middens, and lithic workshop areas ranging in size from 155 square feet to over six acres. The coastal sites cover a period of time from contact with Euroamericans in the 1800's back 3,000 years. Some interior prehistoric sites may date back 6,000 years or more. In addition, there are many unrecorded historic properties such as cabins, sheds, corrals and fences, several homesteads from the 1800's and shipwreck remnants. The Punta Gorda lighthouse, a National Register landmark, is also located on the coastal strand.

The KRNCA has been the focus of several field investigations which indicate the coastal strip contains prehistoric archaeological values of national significance (see references).

From ethnographic reports (Goddard 1929; Merriam 1976; Nomland 1935; Baumhoff 1958) we know the aboriginal peoples were Athapaskan speakers comprised of two distinct groups: the Mattole and what is now known as the Sinkyone. The Mattole had two subgroups with the Cooskie (kooske) Mattole subgroup's territory from Cooskie Creek to Spanish Flat and the Mattole Indian subgroup from the drainage at what is known as the Mackey Cabin north to Davis Creek. The Sinkyone were also divided into subgroups with the Lolangkok Sinkyone holding the inland territory north of Ettersburg to Scotia and east to Phillipsville and the Shelter Cove (Tochobekeah, etc.) Sinkyone holding the territory from Spanish Creek along the coast to Usal and inland including the Garberville area.

9. Threatened & Endangered Plants and Fauna

Endangered wildlife species inhabiting the KRNCA include the brown pelican, bald eagle and peregrine falcon. The northern spotted owl, a threatened species, is present in several of the forested areas within the KRNCA.

The leafy reedgrass, Calamagrostis foliosa, found along the coastal strand is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service candidate species for listing as threatened of extinction (Federal Register, Vol. 45, No. 242, 15 December 1980). It is considered sensitive by BLM.

Appendix E. **Planning Process**

1. Planning Schedule

During September, 1989, an analysis of the size, costs, personnel needs and other factors related to developing a visitor services plan for the KRNCA was made by Bureau personnel. The results of this exploration were written in the KRNCA Visitor Services Pre-Plan Analysis or PPA.

The PPA describes the area to be covered by the plan, the plan's objectives, the constraints which would affect the scope and effect of the plan, an initial set of issues to be addressed in the plan, data needs, participants in the planning effort, how public participation would be accomplished, a planning schedule and cost estimates. The PPA was then presented to the King Range Steering Committee on September 21, 1989 for their advice concerning constraints and issues. The PPA was accepted by the Ukiah District Manager in October of 1989 after which planning staff recruitment and orientation was begun and public scoping meetings were scheduled.

2. Public Scoping.

In order to help identify the major issues which the visitor services plan would be designed to resolve, the general public was invited to participate in scoping or issue identification meetings. Three evening meetings were held. The first was held at the Red Lion Inn in Eureka, CA., on November 28, a second meeting was held at the Mattole Grange in Petrolia, CA., on November 29, and a third meeting was held at the Shelter Cove Community Center on November 30, 1989.

At each of these meetings interested citizens were invited to assist BLM in the planning process by working with BLM staff. Via news releases, the general public was also invited to identify issues and concerns by writing to the Arcata Resource Area Office. January 1, 1990 was established as the final date for accepting issues or comments concerning this KRNCA planning process.

Over two hundred comments were received, of which there were a total of 179 individual issues or concerns expressed.

3. Planning Team

At the public scoping meetings fourteen private citizens signed up to volunteer their time to assist in the planning effort. Along with the planning team leader, one volunteer and one paid natural resource interpreter, these fourteen citizens formed the core planning team. The planning team met approximately two evenings each month from January through April to identify issues and potential management actions. These private citizens worked without any form of remuneration for at least four hours each meeting.

Team members came from a wide geographic area, ranging from McKinleyville to Middleton, and as far east as Redding. Most meetings were also attended by interested citizens representing themselves or organizations and special interest groups. Planning team participation was open to anyone willing to help, and the team met alternately in Arcata and the Garberville area to reduce driving times for at least some of the participants for each meeting.

4. The Planning Process

a. Pre-Plan Analysis

The management actions were generated by the planning team to address the major issues, and are grouped by major issue heading in the draft management plan. Some of the management actions proposed by the planning team as potential issue resolutions were rejected by the Arcata Area Manager during a meeting with the planning team on April 24, 1990, and are recorded along with rationale for their rejection in Appendix H.

The remaining management actions form the draft management plan and are the proposed action for the environmental assessment process.

5. Draft Plan and Environmental Assessment

The draft plan was assembled by BLM staff in Arcata, Redding, Ukiah and Sacramento. The draft plan describes proposed management actions, the schedule for implementing the actions, the staffing necessary to operate the KRNCA and the costs for construction projects, operations and maintenance over the ensuing decade.

The environmental assessment evaluates the impact of the proposed plan upon the human environment, and is used to determine if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed to adequately assess the affects of the proposed plan.

6. Public Review

The draft plan and environmental assessment were then published and distributed to those agencies, individuals and groups known to have an interest in the KRNCA. These publics have 30 days to make their comments to the BLM. Following this comment period, the BLM staff and the planning team will meet to analyze comments and make appropriate changes to the draft plan and environmental assessment. After revisions, the BLM makes a determination as to the need for an EIS and issues a Record of Decision adopting the plan or determining that an EIS will be needed.

Appendix F. Public Participation, Consultation, Contacts, and List Of Preparers

A. Public Meeting Attendees of Record (listed by order of register entry)

1. Eureka, CA, 11/28/89

Individual	Representing
Fred Horton	Off-Road Advertiser
Dona Miller	Northwest Trail Riders
Charles Haynes	Northwest Trail Riders
Crystal Arbuthnot	Mounted Mountaineers
Craig Spjut	
Dean Childs	
Cindy LeGrand	No. Cal. Horsemen's Assoc. & Cal. State Horseman's Assoc.
Robert Beard	
Michael LeGrand	
Carole Polasek	No. Cal. Horsemen's Assoc.
Darrel Polasek	" " " "
Teresa Mello	" " " "
Edie Whithead	Humboldt Bay Quarterhorse Association (HBQA)
Katherine Sousa	
Jackie Sousa	HBQA
Susie Van Kirk	
Ricky Chase	Ca. State Horsemen's Assoc.
Mary Sue Chase	" " " "
Lona Parton	NCHA & CSHA
Hartwell H. Welch	

2. Petrolia, CA, 11/29/89

Linda Smith Franklin	Native Land Uses
Harold Lewis	
Margaret Lewis	
Ali Freedlund	
Tim Bailey	
Jeff Westergard	
Rex Rather	
Annie Keyser	
Mark Fleaer	
Mary Etter	
Anne Smith	
Russell Chambers	

3. Shelter Cove, CA, 11/30/89

Jeane Elder	Resort Improvement Dist. (RID)
Gary Elder	
Raye Anderson	
Reese Anderson	RID Director
Susan Moir	

William L. Wisehart	Sinkyone Wilderness S.P.
Anne Smith	
Harold Lewis	
Margaret Lewis	
Venice Strange	
Riba Silk	
Anthony M. Stramaglia	
Ray Lingel	
FloAnn Ghigliazza	
Gene A. Biven	Bear Crk. Watershed Assoc.
Pat Gary	
Marilyn Machi	
Ruth Baccus	
Jake Lusty	
Deva Wolf	
Dick Carpenter	
Carre Carpenter	
Eric Shafer	
Ben Fieseler	Surfing Access Issues
Mario Machi	
Shirley Machi	
Airi Kulpa	
William Bell	Surfrider Foundation
Greg Mullins	
Betsy Mullins	
Rondal Snodgrass	
Stephanie Snodgrass	
Seth Snodgrass	
Ray Wilcox	
Janine Wilcox	
H.W.(Lucky) Young	
J. Dawson	
Dylan Snodgrass	
Bonnie Glantz	

B. Agencies, Individuals and Groups Contacted or Consulted

American Wilderness Alliance
American Fisheries Society
Bear Creek Watershed Association
Greg Blomstrom
Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM Advisory Council
BLM Lands Foundation
CA Assoc. of Four Wheel Drive Clubs
CA Coastal Commission
California Cooperative Fishery Unit
CA Dept. of Boating & Waterways
CA Dept. of Conservation
CA Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection
CA Dept. of Parks & Recreation
CA Dept. of Fish & Game

CA Dept. of Water Resources
CA Div. of Oil & Gas
CA Div. of Mines & Geology
California Energy Co., Inc.
CA Farm Bureau
CA State Board of Equalization
CA State Board of Forestry
CA State Lands Commission
California Native Plant Society
CA Office of Planning & Resources
California State Automobile Association
CA State Horseman's Association
CA State Grange
CA State Water Resources Control Board
California Trapper Association
Californians for Wilderness
California Wilderness Coalition
California Woolgrowers Association
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Citizens for Mojave National Park
Citizens for Urban Wilderness Areas
City of Sacramento Public Works Dept.
County Supervisors Association
Desert Trail Association
Earth First!
Ecology Center of So. California
Econews
Eel River Sawmills, Inc.
Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County
Environmental Defense Network
Environmental Protection Agency
Environmental Protection Information Center
Eureka City Council
Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Friends of the Dunes
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the River
4 x 4 Dune Buggy News
Fort Bragg/Mendocino Chamber of Commerce
Garberville/Redway Chamber of Commerce
Georgia Pacific Corp.
Thomas S. Hannah
Heartwood College
Homestake Mining Co.
Humboldt Bay Harbor District
Humboldt County Assessor
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
Humboldt County Parks Dept.
Humboldt County Planning Dept.
Humboldt County Public Works Dept.
Internal Revenue Service
King Range Property Owners

King Range Steering Committee
King Range Technical Review Team
Lake County Visitor Information Center
Long Tom Watershed Taxpayers Assoc.
Lost Coast League
Lost Coast Llama Caravans
Marin Co. Board of Realtors
Mattole Watershed Salmon Support Group
Mattole Forest and Rangelands Cooperative
Mattole Watershed Taxpayers Association
Mattole Restoration Council
Mattole Valley Community Center
Mendocino County Air Pollution Control District
Mendocino County Assessor
Mendocino County Archaeological Commission
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
Mendocino County Dept. of Public Works
Mendocino County Farm Advisor
Mendocino County Farm Bureau
Mendocino County Planning and Building Services Dept.
Mendocino County Planning Dept.
Mendocino Environmental Center
Mendocino County Parks and Beaches
Mendocino 4 x 4's
Native American Heritage Commission
Northwest Information Center, Sonoma State University
One Shot Mining Co.
Palo Verde Products
Planning and Conservation League
Petrolia Garden Project
Protection of Nature in Israel
Marlene & Crandall Ray
Red Mountain Association
Redwood Community Radio KMUD
Sierra Club
Sinkyone Tribal Council
Mr. & Mrs. David Silva
Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District
Gordon F. Snow
So. Utah Wilderness Alliance
Tehama Alliance for Resources and Environment
The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
Trust for Public Land
UC Cooperative Extension Service
US Army Corps of Engineers
USDI, Bureau of Mines
USDA, Forest Service
USDI, Fish & Wildlife Service
USDI, National Park Service
USDI, Soil Conservation Service
Ukiah District Advisory Council

Ukiah Downtown Merchants Assoc.
We Care
Western Mining Council
Wildlife Conservation Board

C. Plan Preparers

1. Public Volunteer Planning Team Members

Cindy LeGrand
Will Bell
Rick Chase
Dylan Snodgrass
Craig Spjut
Gary Elder
Clark Guzzi
Lona Parton
Fred Horton
Linda Smith-Franklin
Ray Lingel
Reese Anderson
Raye Anderson
Mel Lynn
Lynn Ryan
Don Gribi
Lisa D. Hoover

2. BLM Preparers and Reviewers

a. Preparers	Title	Responsibilities
Dan Averill	Natural Resource Specialist	Environment
Paul Boos	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Document Format
Bruce Cann	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visitor Use Data
Thomas Dematte	Forester	Forestry
Marlene Greenway	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources
Charlotte Hawks	Realty Specialist	Lands
Steve Hawks	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Habitat
Dianne Knox	Realty Specialist	Graphic Preparation
John Lloyd	Area Manager	Management Oversight

Ethel McMilin	ADP Coordinator	Data Analysis/GIS
SuZan Meiners	Interpreter	Interpretation
Susan Richey	Clerk/Typist	Logistics & Clerical Support, Recording
Caroline Stimson	Volunteer Interpreter	Interpretation, Meeting Recording
Joseph O.I. Williams	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Team Leader, Public Participation, Plan Coordination
Alex Young	Landscape Architect	Facility Design, Cost Analysis

b. Reviewers	Title	Responsibilities
Paul Boos	Outdoor Recreation Planner	
Earle Curran	Outdoor Recreation/Wilderness Planner	
Linda Hansen	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	Environmental Documentation
Alfred Wright	District Manager	Plan Approval

Appendix G. Environmental Assessment

INTRODUCTION

The King Range was established by the Congress as the nation's first National Conservation Area in 1970. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) completed a management plan in 1974. In the intervening years, emphasis was placed on adding some 25,000 acres of acquired private land to the existing 30,000 acres under public ownership in 1970. As the King Range became better known to the public, use of the area has increased. Except for aggressive land acquisition, few of the 1974 management plan actions have been accomplished.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 directed BLM to inventory public lands to determine if they were suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). Approximately 20,500 acres of the King Range and an additional 4,143 acres of Chemise Mountain have been recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

Because of the increased use and interest in the King Range, the BLM decided to prepare a Visitor Services Plan, and started that process in 1990. This environmental assessment will address proposed actions to determine what impacts they may have, and identify, if necessary, mitigating measures to assure the integrity of the area's natural resources and to ensure that no proposed action will impair the area's wilderness characteristics.

This activity plan is in conformance with the King Range Management Plan of 1974. Only actions that will not impair the area's suitability as wilderness will be implemented.

Site specific development plans, including an environmental assessment, will be completed on all proposed actions. All actions within wilderness study areas will conform to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964, and the Bureau's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review as updated in 1987.

A. Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives.

1. Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to implement those actions listed in Part III - The Management Plan of the KRNCA Visitor Services Plan.

The management plan includes 154 individual management actions designed to provide resolutions to the 24 Major Issues (see Part II) developed with and through public participation in the planning process. For each Major Issue, a set of possible resolutions or management actions was identified. From the possible management actions, a set of actions which in combination best resolved the issues was selected.

The management plan includes actions which represent changes in degree, approach to and intensity of the BLM's recreation management direction or policy within the KRNCA, and identify the support facilities, staffing, cooperating relationships, and other actions needed to implement the plan.

This environmental assessment does not address the environmental impacts associated with individual sites where surface-disturbing actions such as facility construction may occur. Each surface disturbing project will require a separate additional environmental assessment after project plans are developed.

2. Alternatives to the Proposed Action

a. Wilderness Alternative

Under the Wilderness Alternative no action affecting any of the Public Lands within the Wilderness Study Area Boundary (see Map 2), other than actions (such as staffing, use capacity limitation, establishing limits of acceptable change and monitoring) which would enhance management of that area as designated wilderness, would be implemented until after Congressional wilderness designation action. Such delayed or prohibited actions would include road maintenance, planning for campground expansion, beach shelter and toilet construction, etc. After wilderness designation, area specific wilderness management plans will be developed. This plan will be considered in preparation of those wilderness management plans.

b. No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative the KRNCA Visitor Services Plan would not be implemented and BLM,s management activities would only need to be consistent with the 1974 King Range Management Program (existing situation).

B. Description of the Existing Environment

The KRNCA existing environment is described briefly in Part I - Introduction of the Visitor Services Plan. For additional information see the references contained in the Reference section of the Visitor Services Plan. For resource management program specific information refer to Appendix D, Resources in the King Range National Conservation Area.

C. Environmental Consequences

1. Proposed Action

The environmental consequences of the Proposed Action are addressed below by those parts of the Proposed Action which affect specific Visitor Management Zones (VMZs) and those parts which affect the KRNCA generally (Total Area).

a. Visitor Management Zone 1.

Natural and cultural resources on the public lands within Zone 1. would be protected from impacts associated with human use. Numbers of visitors would be limited and vehicle use would be excluded. Off-site information and public education efforts as well as on site agency patrols, and if necessary, special permits, would serve to reduce adverse affects historically associated with unregulated human use and would also reduce the need for intrusion for search and rescue, and fire suppression. Provision of inconspicuous sanitation devices near the coastal strand at several creeks would mitigate human waste pollution but could also negatively impact prehistoric cultural sites located nearby due to increased pedestrian traffic. Cooperative arrangements with private inholders or acquisition of private inholdings would reduce the effects of private land actions which would be incongruous with the Zone's management theme. Development of the Miller Ridge and Horse Mt. Creek Trails would help disperse both hiking and equestrian use by providing alternatives for trail users, reducing the frequency of contact between visitors and enhancing opportunities for solitude and primitive experiences. Requiring visitors to pack out any trash or garbage they generate during their visit would reduce littering and help maintain scenic quality, while reducing the expense to the government for maintaining this area.

b. Visitor Management Zone 2.

Within VMZ 2. protection of natural and cultural resources would be emphasized as in Zone 1., however concentrations of visitors and the imprint of human use would be more apparent. These areas would contain some on-site controls designed to protect cultural resources such as fencing around shell mounds. Evidence of human use would be apparent also due to the presence of beach cabins (Smith-Etter) and their access roads which occasionally receive motor vehicle use.

As with VMZ 1., improved public education and information services off-site, a pack in-pack out rule, as well as enhanced managing agency back-country patrol capability would serve to reduce adverse impacts normally associated with human use.

c. Visitor Management Zone 3.

Proposed actions within VMZ 3. emphasize enhancing visitor experience opportunities through provision of additional information and services while protecting natural and cultural resource values. Actions include orientation and directional signing as well as interpretive and regulatory information, primarily at trailheads, road/trail intersections and within developed campgrounds. Services include water source developments, trailhead and camping improvements for equestrian use.

In order to reduce competition with other visitors, primitive roadside parking improvements (turnouts) to facilitate vehicle-based day use opportunities and reduce road congestion. Improved security for the visiting public would be provided through greater management field presence (rangers, maintenance personnel and volunteers). Providing separation for off-road vehicle and pedestrian visitors along with regulatory and interpretive information at the Black Sands Beach area would help reduce visitor conflicts between motorized and non-motorized visitors.

VMZ 3 consists primarily of lands on the eastern and northern periphery of the King Range. Smaller sections include the Black Sands Beach to Gitchell Creek and portions of the upper terraces at the Mouth of the Mattole River.

The VMZ 3 area south of the Mattole River is partially within the WSA. Only those actions that would not impair the area's suitability for wilderness designation would be completed prior to wilderness designation. After designation, separate site plans and an environmental assessment will be completed for the Mattole area. Likewise, no wilderness impairing actions will be completed within the WSA boundary north of the present Black Sands Beach day use area.

It is the intent of the VSP to identify those areas that by their very presence will attract users, e.g., road access to the Mattole River, present campgrounds, the developed Shelter Cove area, and the Humboldt County Horse Mountain Road, a well used gravel road passing through the King Range north to south, and connecting the Shelter Cove Road with the Wilder Ridge Road and points north (Honeydew, Petrolia, Ferndale, and Highway 101). These areas and facilities, while subject to heavy use, are on the periphery of the King Range, and are largely unnoticeable.

All of the present major developments, and those planned in the future, will be located and designed to not intrude upon or detract from the area's naturalness. A large majority of the King Range users do not venture far beyond the confines of developed areas. These areas will provide, an many cases, the only opportunity for users to obtain information on the area. This will lessen the need for other than minimal services throughout the rest of the King Range, as all users will pass one or more of the developed information points. With the exception of present/future developments at the Mattole River and Black Sands Beach, the backpacker/hiker will have limited contact with facilities and will be able to enjoy the area's naturalness.

d. Visitor Management Zone 4.

VMZ 4. actions are designed to orient and inform visitors while they are still within the transition area between urban or rural development and the primitive parts of the KRNCA. The proposed orientation, guide, regulatory and interpretive signs, visitor center and contact stations should provide for a better informed visiting public which would reduce problems due to lack of preparedness and provide opportunities to increase their knowledge of the area's natural and cultural resources and appropriate behavior within the KRNCA's various environments. Visitors who do not have the ability or desire to experience the more primitive parts of the KRNCA would have the opportunity to learn about the area's natural and cultural features, as well as BLM's management programs, from static displays, brochures and contact with BLM personnel and volunteers.

e. Visitor Management Zone 5.

VMZ 5. at Shelter Cove will provide a very structured, controlled opportunity for visitors to learn about and experience the tidal pools between Mal Coombs Park and Abalone Point. Provision of a walking trail and numerous interpretive stations will help protect the fragile tidal pool ecosystem from uninformed specimen collection or other types of abuse. Provision of hardened parking areas and other intensive use oriented facilities will protect this area's cultural sites also. Visitor safety will also be enhanced through the combination of physical structures and informational services.

Hiking trails would be planned and constructed to avoid cultural sites. Parking areas and intensively used developments will be placed to minimize impacts upon sensitive resources. Visitor safety will be enhanced through the provision of planned facilities, avoiding dangerous locations. Information would be disseminated through personal contacts, signing, maps and brochures.

f. Total Area

Many of the proposed management actions affect the total KRNCA and are designed to improve visitor experiences while protecting the natural environment, cultural resources, and improving the human relationships between visitors, the managing agency, and the local community. Conflict reducing measures include designing roads and trails to reduce the likelihood of visitor trespass, or increasing BLM and volunteer presence to enhance the opportunity to contact and inform visitors. Both emergency services and law enforcement would be enhanced through better cooperation with local agency providers. Potentially deleterious impacts associated with commercial services would be controlled and mitigated through a permit system. Impacts from excessive visitor use or use of fragile sites would be controlled by limiting numbers of visitors and directing them away from fragile sites or habitats. Cooperating relationships with volunteer organizations, other agencies and groups would help reduce total costs for projects and services while improving resource protection and public services. Restrictions on fires would help reduce the probability of disastrous wildfire during high fire danger periods.

2. Wilderness Alternative

Under this alternative the management objectives for Visitor Management Zone 1. (See Part IV, Visitor Services Plan) would be applied to all public lands within the Wilderness Study Area boundary except the three mile beach area open to vehicle use. Any of the actions identified in the draft plan which involve land within the wilderness study areas (see map 2.) which would not enhance management of that land as wilderness or which are not consistent with Interim Management Policy prior to designation as wilderness would be deferred or prohibited. Along the coastal strand, the development of beach shelters and toilets at several creeks would be delayed until visitor use of these areas for camping and attendant waste human waste disposal created conditions so obviously detrimental that the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) established for these areas were clearly exceeded. Therefore, the human waste pollution which occurs in these areas would be limited through educational efforts. No human waste containment devices would be provided until problems became excessive and agency reaction became unavoidable. Shelters for protection from wind and rain would continue to be created by visitors erecting makeshift driftwood barriers wherever convenient, requiring periodic agency policing activities to remove them. In the VMZ Zone 3 and 4 (under the Proposed Action) areas near the Mouth of the Mattole, no campground expansion or equestrian facilities would be provided, the operating assumption being that the wilderness boundary in this area would encompass all the public lands in this part of the KRNCA. Parking, vehicle access and camping facilities would have to be provided on land outside the KRNCA boundary, requiring acquisition of privately owned land in a suitable area, if possible. Development of trailhead parking at Black Sands Beach would be limited to the area to the south of the WSA boundary. Other actions such as staffing, redevelopment of facilities outside the WSA boundary, etc. would be implemented as described in the plan. The environmental consequences of these types of actions would be the same as described in the section 2. above.

3. No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative the KRNCA would continue to be managed under the general guidance provided by the 1974 King Range Management Program. The environmental and social problems identified by the public and described in the Major Issues (Part III.) of the Visitor Services Plan would for the most part remain unresolved because the BLM would not have sufficient planning in place (as required under Section 202, FLPMA) to address them.

D. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS.

The Visitor Services Plan (VSP) provides general guidance for the King Range National Conservation Area, and does not detail the extent or type of construction in any given site or zone. However, certain inferences can be drawn from the document. The VSP delineates five visitor management zones, ranging from rather extensive, low development zones (Visitor Management Zone 1, managed to be essentially free of on-site physical facilities) to areas of concentrated human use and facilities to serve them (Zones 4 and 5, where paved roads, camping facilities, staging areas, etc., are present).

With the exception of the developed Shelter Cove area (Zone 5), and developed campgrounds (Wailaki/Nadelos, Tolkan Equestrian facilities, Horse Mountain Camp, and, depending upon the location of the wilderness boundary, the Mattole Recreation Site), all facilities will be limited to the minimum essential to provide services identified as appropriate for the particular zone. It is the intent of the VSP to limit mans influence to those few developed sites, and manage the remainder of the King Range to assure that the natural qualities of the area receive little human impact. By designing facilities that visually merge with the surrounding environment, minimal overall development objectives, and with the bulk of the King Range physical facilities on the periphery of natural areas, impacts will be kept to a minimum.

The overall impacts will be minimal, and will not cause an undue degradation of the area's naturalness.

The King Range offers a recreational experience found nowhere else on the Pacific Coast. Other areas, such as National Parks, State Parks and various wilderness areas administered by federal agencies, offer exposure to inland terrains, or the dense Redwood forests along Highway 101. The King Range beach offers solitude, undisturbed beaches and little evidence of man. The higher elevations, especially the King Crest and Chemise Mountain Trails, offer coastal vistas unique to this section of the California Coast. A variety of sea animals and birds complement their terrestrial cousins, offering the King Range user an unparalleled experience.

Appendix H. Proposed Alternative Management Actions

The following management actions were proposed by the planning team as possible solutions to some of the concerns identified in the Major Issues (Part II.) section of this plan. During a meeting with the King Range Steering Committee conducted on April 24, 1990, the entire array of proposed management actions was evaluated and the Steering Committee made recommendations to the Area Manager. Following that meeting, the Area Manager met with the planning team and selected the array of management actions shown in Part III., The Management Plan. Subsequently the draft Management Plan was reviewed by the Ukiah District staff for technical adequacy and also reviewed by California State Office for consistency with BLM policies. As a result of those reviews, additional proposed management actions were removed from the Management Plan. Those proposed management actions which the Area Manager rejected or did not meet BLM policy consistency requirements are listed below along with rationale for their rejection.

Local Employment

Action: When possible, contract for labor and equipment from the local area for construction or rehabilitation projects.

Rationale: Regulations governing Federal procurement practices do not prohibit contracting locally, as long as the local bidder can meet the contract requirements at the lowest cost to the government. Specifying that local labor and/or equipment contractors receive preferential consideration would be discriminatory and therefore, illegal.

Action: Advertise employment opportunities and availability of contracts for bid locally.

Rationale: While it would not be illegal to advertise employment opportunities and availability of contracts locally as well as regionally and nationally, it would be illegal to limit such advertising to a specific area under most conditions. The proximity of BLM offices to the local area will automatically provide a convenient information source to the local population concerning employment and/or contract opportunities, however BLM, as is the case with the rest of the Federal government, is legally constrained from discriminating in favor of a population solely on the basis of local proximity.

Off Highway Vehicles

Action: Erect a barrier at the northern end of Zone 3 near Gitchell Creek to keep off-road vehicles from continuing into the closed (no vehicles) portion of the beach in Zone 2.

Rationale: This action proposal was rejected for two reasons. First, the technical feasibility of constructing an effective barrier which would be able to withstand the surf environment is questionable and a durable barrier would be extraordinarily expensive. Secondly, such a barrier would be inconsistent with the preservation of the area's primitive qualities and would be impairing with regard to wilderness qualities. The proposed site is situated within the WSA boundary.

Visitor Capacities

Action: Post notices at visitor contact stations warning of overcrowded or overused areas.

Rationale: Providing the area's visitors with such variable or dynamic information can be better accomplished through direct contact with visitors by agency staff and volunteers.

Facility Developments

Action: Construct a visitor center at the Abalone Point site.

Rationale: Due to the small size of the tidal lots in Shelter Cove, the proximity to residential development, the traffic pressure which would impact the community and the importance of the experience opportunities provided by the existing level of development at this site, situating the visitor center at Abalone Point was considered to be overdevelopment of that site.

Action: Convert the Mouth of Mattole Campground into a day-use parking area.

Rationale: While the existing campground does not function very satisfactorily due to periodic flooding problems and inadequate facilities, the continuing need for a campground at this site is recognized. Improvement of the facility would better satisfy visitor's needs than restricting its use to day-use only.

Action: Provide a controlled access playground at Mal Coombs Park and Abalone Point for the use of visitor's children.

Rationale: Providing child care for visitors who do not wish to supervise their own children is not within BLM's land management mission. It was felt that children visiting the area with their parents would benefit more from the learning opportunities offered relating to the natural resources than from a playground.

Action: Construct a staircase to provide foot access around Point No-Pass.

Rationale: This proposal was originally offered as a means of facilitating rescue operations to the south of Point No-Pass. After further consideration, it was determined that providing such an access would do little to really help in rescue operations, and would invite liability because it would provide greater access to an already hazardous area.

Action: Limit occupancy of turnouts for vehicle parking, roadside camping, etc. to 24 hours.

Rationale: With small modifications to other management actions directed at this issue, specifying a sperate time limit for occupancy of turnouts was obviated.

Action: Provide trash receptacles at turnouts.

Rationale: It was determined that trash receptacles were appropriate for developed facilities such as campgrounds, but that a pack in-pack out policy would be more appropriate in the KRNCA.

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